

Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey

Date: 13th December 2017
Geographical Area: Northern Ireland
Theme: Labour Market
Frequency: Quarterly

Key Points

Employee jobs estimates are collected 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 employee jobs increased over the quarter (2,460 jobs) and over the year (11,600 jobs) to 752,040 in September 2017. Increases were experienced in the manufacturing, construction and services sectors over the year with the services sector accounting for the majority (71%) of the growth.
- Private sector jobs increased over the quarter (0.5% or 2,740 jobs) and year (2.1% or 11,200 jobs) to their highest level since records began in 1974.
- Public sector jobs decreased over the quarter and increased marginally over the year. There are now 22,350 fewer public sector jobs than the series peak in September 2009 (-10%).
- Since the start of recovery in 2012 employee jobs have increased by 8.7% (59,950 jobs) with over three quarters of the increase occurring in the services sector.

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

- Gender splits
- Full-time/part-time employees

5. Notes to editors

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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.

1 Summary of Employee Jobs

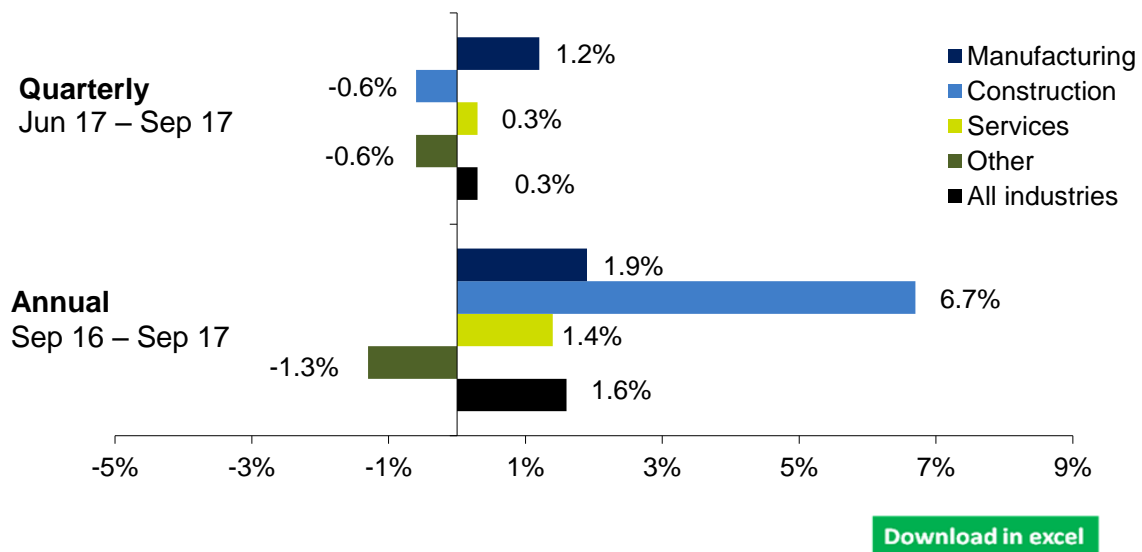
Updated December 2017

Change in employee jobs

The seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimate for Northern Ireland (NI) at September 2017 was 752,040, this was:

- an increase of 0.3% (2,460 jobs) over the quarter from the June 2017 estimate of 749,580.
- an increase of 1.6% (11,600 jobs) over the year from the revised September 2016 estimate of 740,440.

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



Change over the quarter

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

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 1.2% (1,020 jobs) to 84,120 jobs.
- a decrease in the construction sector by 0.6% (-200 jobs) to 33,320 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector by 0.3% (1,780 jobs) to 612,460 jobs.
- a decrease in the other industries sector by 0.6% (-140 jobs) to 22,140 jobs.

Change over the year

Comparing seasonally adjusted September 2017 employee jobs to the revised September 2016 estimates showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 1.9% (1,540 jobs) to 84,120 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector by 6.7% (2,090 jobs) to 33,320 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector by 1.4% (8,250 jobs) to 612,460 jobs.
- a decrease in the other industries sector by 1.3% (-290 jobs) to 22,140 jobs.

Comparing unadjusted data over the year, estimates show:

- (i) Food and beverage service activities; (ii) land transport and transport via pipelines and (iii) computer programming, consultancy and related activities saw the greatest increases over the year accounting for 29.8% of all increases in employee jobs (all three sections are in the services sector).

- (i) Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles; (ii) wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles and (iii) accommodation saw the greatest decreases over the year accounting for 58.7% of all decreases.
- Despite the decreases in these sections, there was a net increase in employee jobs.

Change over the past five years

The first sign of recovery after the decline in employee jobs was in 2012. Over the period September 2012 to September 2017, the seasonally adjusted employee job figures increased by 8.1% (56,110 jobs). The increases were seen across all four industry sectors:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 13.0% (9,700 jobs).
- an increase in the construction sector by 7.8% (2,420 jobs).
- an increase in the services sector by 7.5% (42,910 jobs).
- an increase in the other industries sector by 5.1% (1,080 jobs).

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

- (i) Residential care activities, (ii) food and beverage service activities, (iii) employment activities (iv) services to buildings and landscape activities, (v) computer programming, consultancy and related activities and (vi) activities of head offices; management consultancy activities accounted for 51.6% of all increases over the five year period.
- (i) Human health activities, (ii) public administration and defence; compulsory social security, and (iii) manufacture of beverage and tobacco products accounted for 80.9% of all the decreases over the five year period.
- Despite the decreases in these sections, there was a net increase in employee jobs.

Public / private sector changes

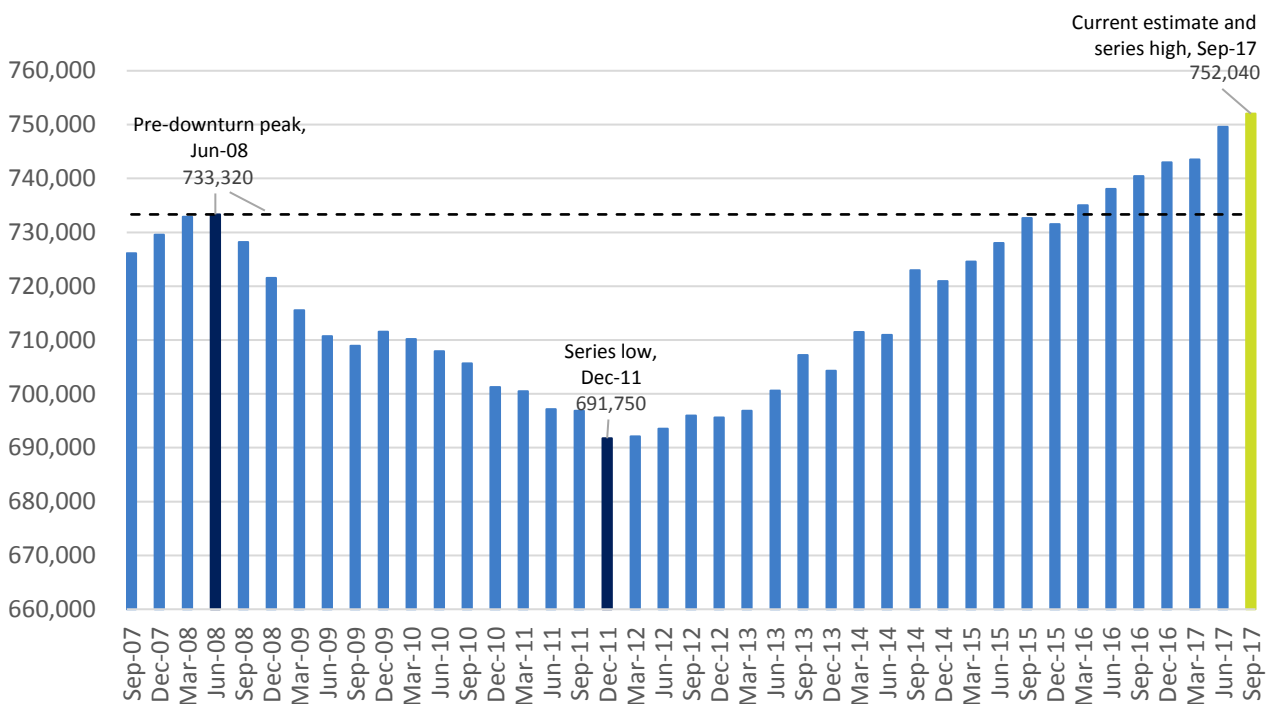
Seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimates for the public and private sector at September 2017 show:

- a decrease of 0.1% (-220 jobs) in the public sector over the quarter and an increase of 0.3% (680 jobs) over the year to 205,700 jobs.
- an increase of 0.5% (2,740 jobs) in the private sector over the quarter and an increase of 2.1% (11,200 jobs) over the year to 545,760 jobs.

Commentary

- Northern Ireland (NI) employee jobs increased over both the quarter and the year to a series high of 752,040 in September 2017. Whilst increases over the year were seen in the manufacturing, construction and services sectors, the total increase in employee jobs over the year (11,600 jobs or 1.6%) was driven by the services sector, which accounted for the majority of the growth (71%).
- United Kingdom (UK) figures also showed an increase over both the quarter and the year to September 2017 (0.2% and 1.5% respectively).
- When considering the pre-downturn period, NI employee jobs reached a peak in June 2008. The latest estimates show that quarterly employee jobs have been above this pre-downturn peak for seven consecutive quarters, since March 2016. Estimates show that UK employee jobs have been above their pre-downturn peak for thirteen consecutive quarters, since September 2014.

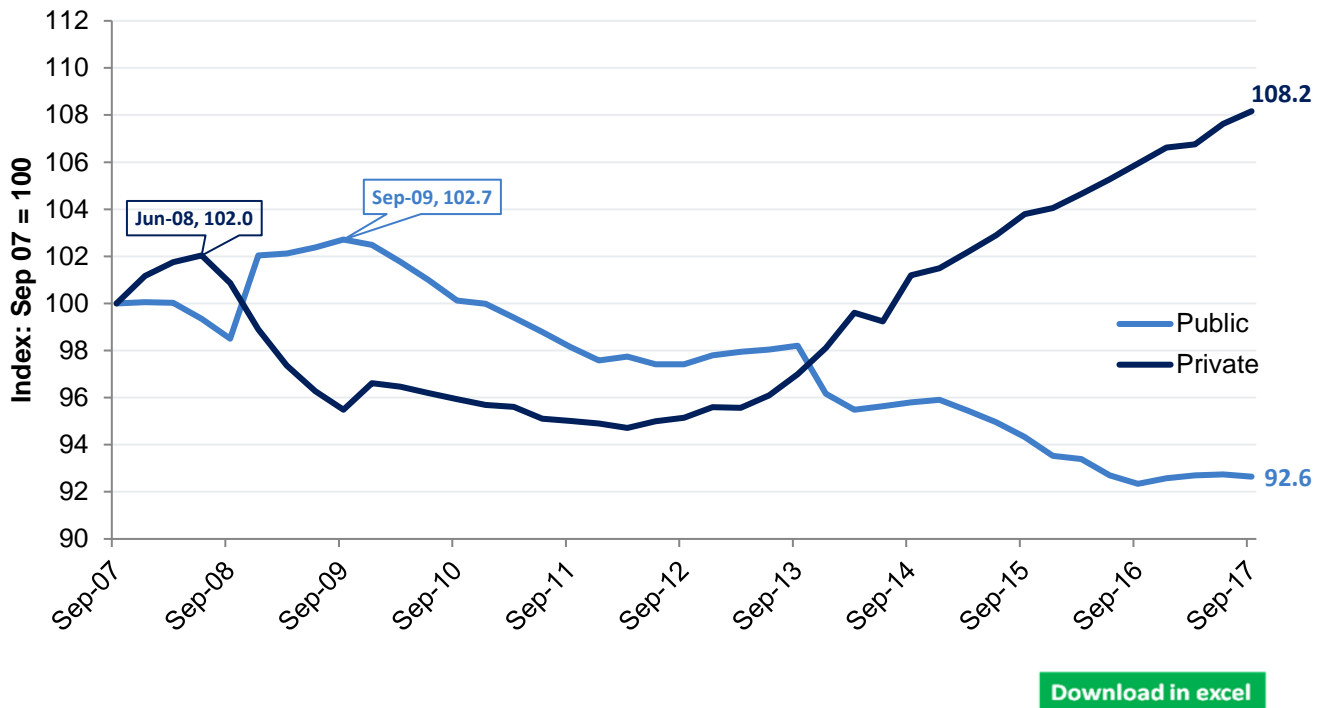
Fig 1.2 Total Employee Jobs in NI, September 2007 – September 2017



[Download in excel](#)

- Whilst there has been quarter on quarter growth since December 2015, there is some evidence that growth in NI employee jobs has been slowing since June 2016. The year on year increases from June 2014 to March 2016 based on rolling four quarters have consistently been above 1.5%, whereas from June 2016 increases have been 1.5% or below.
- Private sector employee jobs continued to grow and reached a series high in September 2017 (545,760 jobs). When considering the pre-downturn period, private sector employee jobs reached a peak in June 2008. The latest estimates show that private sector employee jobs surpassed the June 2008 peak in March 2015 and have increased for eleven consecutive quarters. The current estimate is 6.0% above the pre-downturn peak. However when considering the rolling four quarters series, there is some evidence that the growth in private sector jobs is slowing; with year on year increases of 3.1% from 2014 to 2015; 2.3% from 2015 to 2016 and 2.2% from 2016 to 2017.
- Whilst public sector jobs showed a marginal increase (680 jobs or 0.3%) over the year to September 2017, there are now 22,350 fewer public sector jobs than the series peak in September 2009 (-10%).

Figure 1.3: Index of NI Private and Public Sector Jobs, September 2007 – September 2017



Figures are indexed to September 2007

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](#).

Date of next publication

The next Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey publication is planned for 21st March 2018.

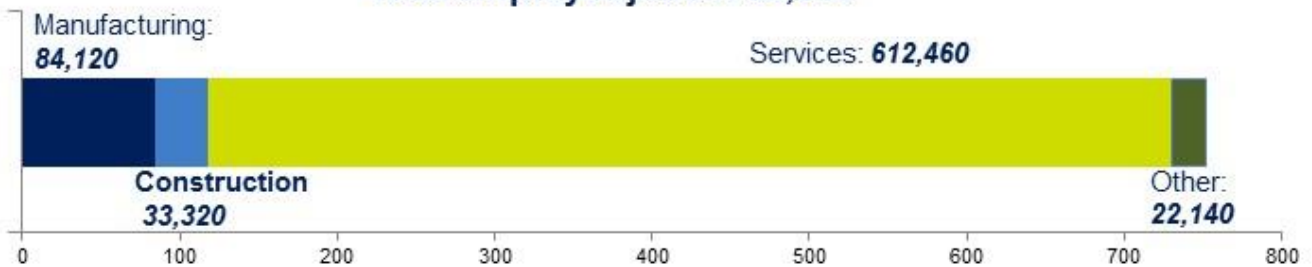
**Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website:
Quarterly Employment Survey**

Infographic summary of the latest QES statistics

NISRA Labour Market Statistics

Quarterly Employment Survey – September 2017

Total employee jobs: 752,040



Change on quarter



Change on year



All data seasonally adjusted and subject to future revisions.
Data published on 13th December 2017 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. The QES excludes the self-employed, HM Armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and jobskills 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 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 job skills 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 5.12a on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [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

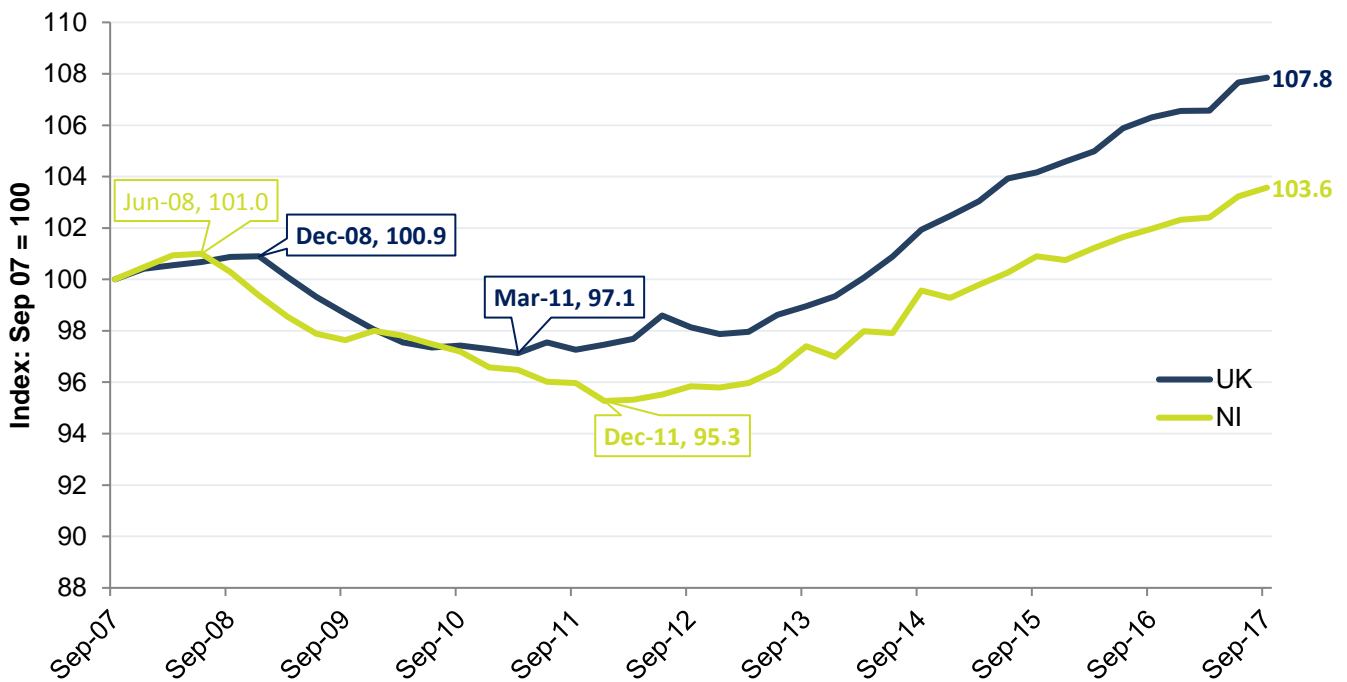
Employee: An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 years or over that is directly paid from a business's payroll for carrying out a full-time or part time job or being on a training scheme in Northern Ireland.

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% (2,460 jobs) and over the year by 1.6% (11,600 jobs) to 752,040.

Figure 2.1: Index of Employee Jobs, September 2007 – September 2017



Figures are indexed to September 2007

[Download in excel](#)

Figure 2.1 shows the estimated seasonally adjusted employee jobs, indexed to allow comparison between NI and the UK. NI had a peak in June 2008 and the UK in December 2008. The UK reached its lowest point in March 2011 – almost one year before the NI low in December 2011. Both NI and the UK have surpassed their pre-downturn peaks. NI employee jobs have been above the pre-downturn peak (experienced in June 2008) for seven consecutive quarters (since March 2016).

Employee Jobs

The September 2017 seasonally adjusted employee jobs total in NI stands at 752,040, which was:

- an increase of 0.3% (2,460 jobs) from the June 2017 estimate of 749,580
- an increase of 1.6% (11,600 jobs) over the year.

Employee jobs by broad industry sector

The seasonally adjusted quarterly change consisted of:

- an increase of 1.2% in the manufacturing sector (1,020 jobs) to 84,120 jobs
- a decrease of 0.6% in the construction sector (-200 jobs) to 33,320 jobs
- an increase of 0.3% in the services sector (1,780 jobs) to 612,460 jobs
- a decrease of 0.6% in the other industries sector (-140 jobs) to 22,140 jobs.

The seasonally adjusted annual change consisted of:

- an increase of 1.9% in the manufacturing sector (1,540 jobs) to 84,120 jobs
- an increase of 6.7% in the construction sector (2,090 jobs) to 33,320 jobs
- an increase of 1.4% in the services sector (8,250 jobs) to 612,460 jobs
- a decrease of 1.3% in the other industries sector (-290 jobs) to 22,140 jobs.

Northern Ireland employee jobs annual change by industry Q3 2016 - Q3 2017

Change by broad industry sector (seasonally adjusted)

Manufacturing



+1.9% (1,540 jobs)
total jobs 84,120

Construction



+6.7% (2,090 jobs)
total jobs 33,320

Services



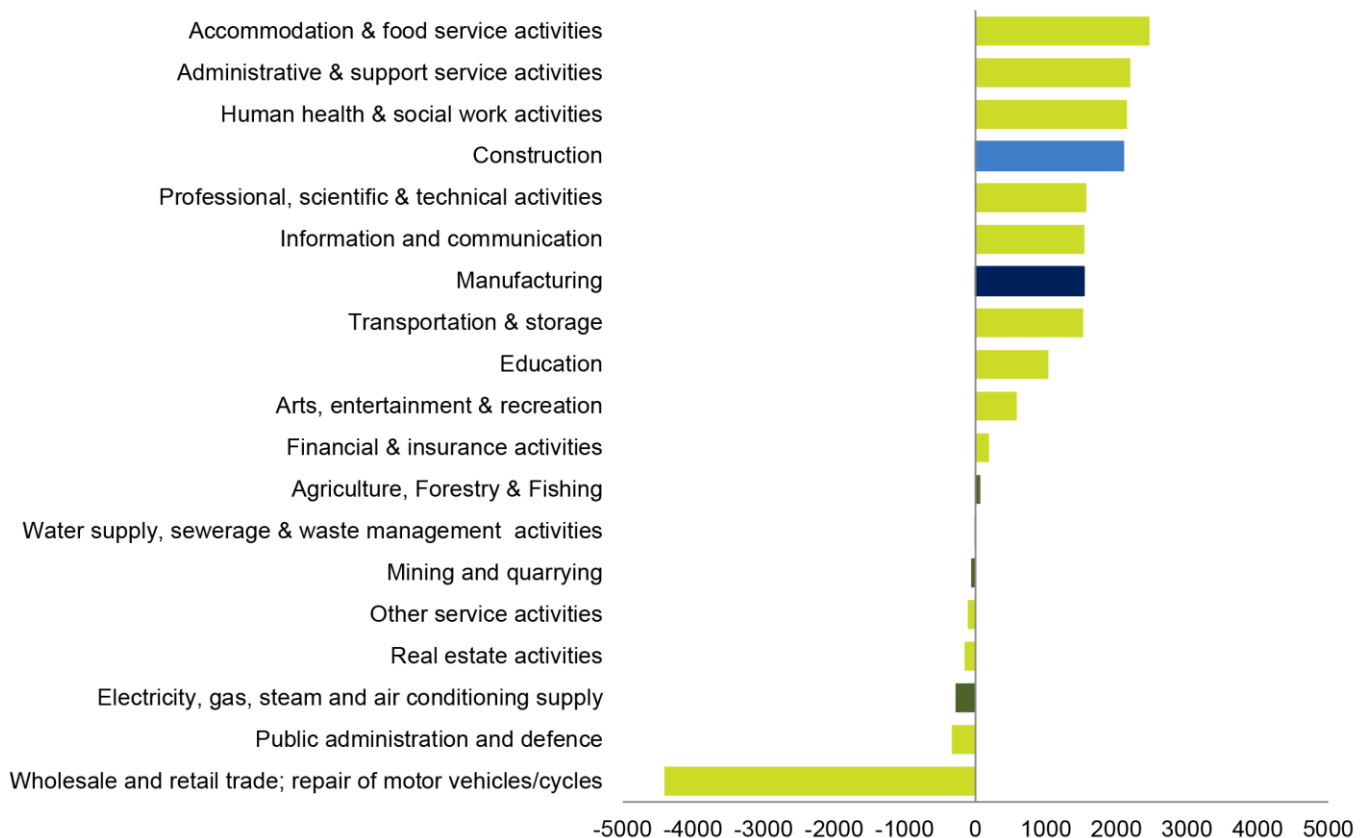
+1.4% (8,250 jobs)
total jobs 612,460

Other



-1.3% (-290 jobs)
total jobs 22,140

Change by industry section (seasonally adjusted)



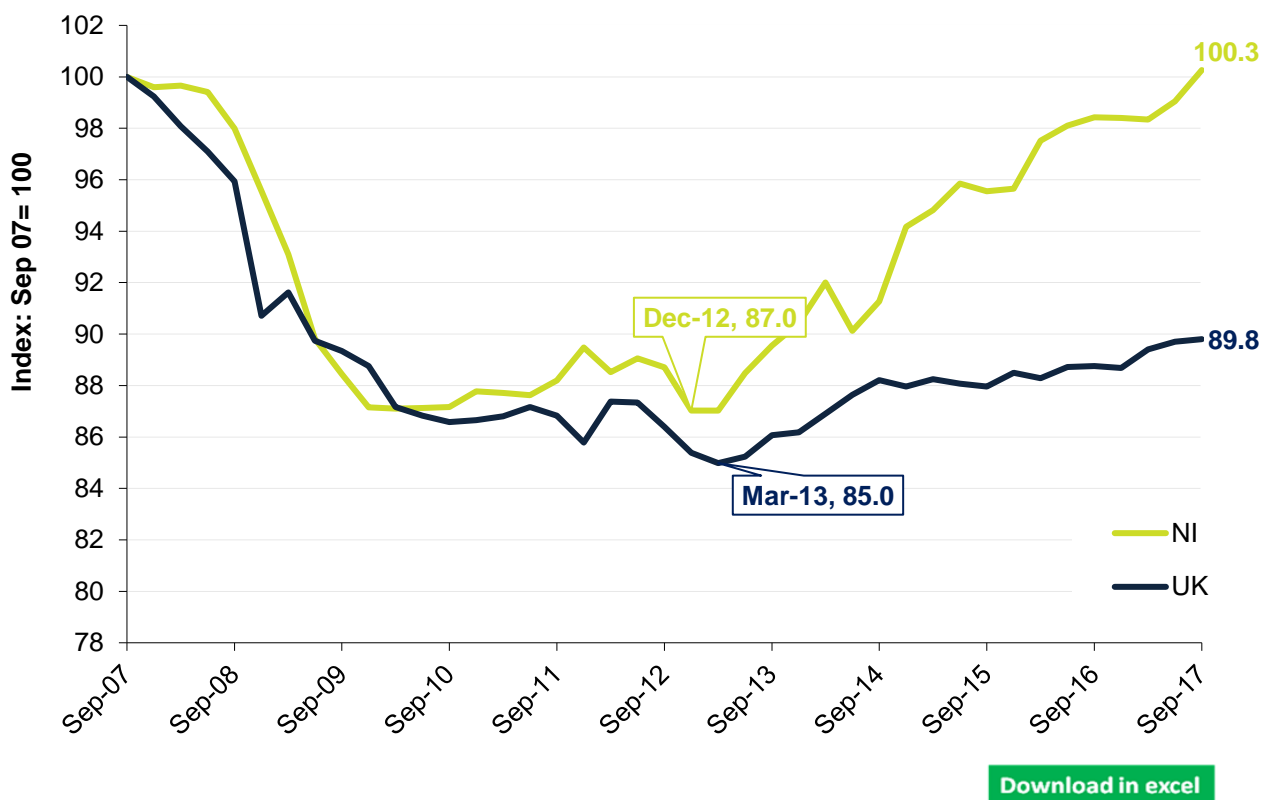
Manufacturing sector

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 manufacturing sector accounted for 11% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures show an increase of 1.2% in the manufacturing sector over the quarter to September 2017 and an increase of 1.9% over the year to 84,120 jobs.

Figure 2.2: Index of Manufacturing Employee Jobs, September 2007 – September 2017



Figures are indexed to September 2007

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 from December 2007. NI reached a series low in December 2012 (87.0% of the September 2007 level), whilst the UK reached its series low in March 2013 (85.0% of the September 2007 level).

NI is now 0.3% above the September 2007 level while the UK remains 10.2% lower than in September 2007.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the manufacturing sector increased by 1.2% (1,020 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 1.9% (1,540 jobs) over the year to 84,120 in September 2017.

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 September 2017 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 1.9% (1,590 jobs) in the manufacturing sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase were:

- an increase of 8.6% (690 jobs) in the manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment
- an increase of 2.8% (540 jobs) in the manufacture of food products
- an increase of 7.5% (210 jobs) in the manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials.

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

- a decrease of 23.7% (-260 jobs) in the manufacture of beverages and tobacco products
- a decrease of 4.6% (-180 jobs) in the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers
- a decrease of 2.5% (-160 jobs) in the manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.12 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

When using table 5.12 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 5 – Further Info.

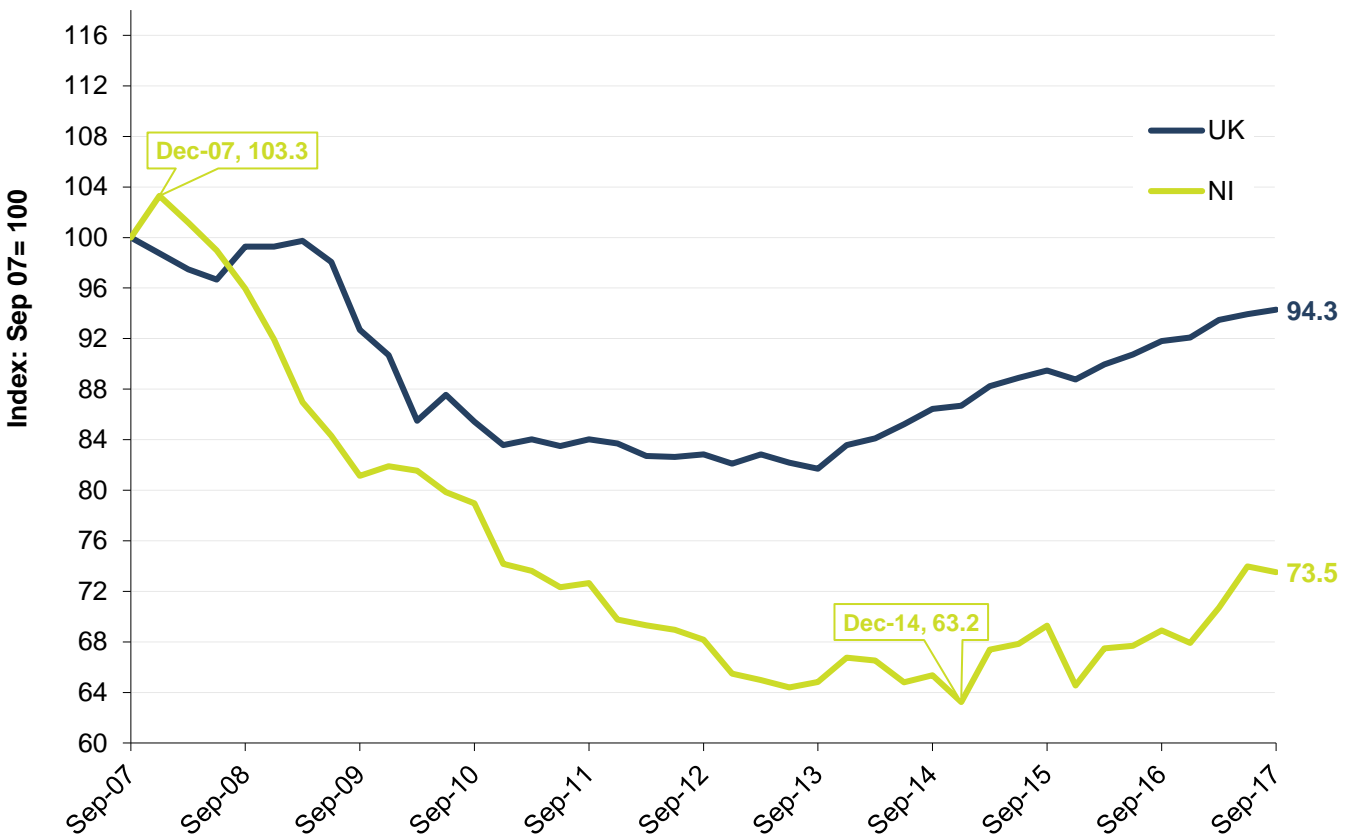
Construction sector

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% of the total employee jobs figure.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed a decrease of 0.6% over the quarter to September 2017 and an increase of 6.7% over the year to 33,320 jobs.

Figure 2.3: Index of Construction Employee Jobs, September 2007 – September 2017



Figures are indexed to September 2007

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The number of employee jobs in the construction sector in NI reached a low in December 2014 (28,660 jobs). Most recent estimates show a 16% improvement on this level; however the number of employee jobs in the construction sector is currently 29% lower than the series peak in December 2007.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the construction sector decreased by 0.6% (-200 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 6.7% (2,090 jobs) over the year to 33,320.

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 September 2017 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 6.7% (2,090 jobs) in the construction sector.

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 7.6% (1,210 jobs) in specialised construction activities
- an increase of 13.3% (1,020 jobs) in civil engineering
- a decrease of 1.7% (-130 jobs) in construction of buildings

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.12 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

When using table 5.12 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 5 – Further Info.

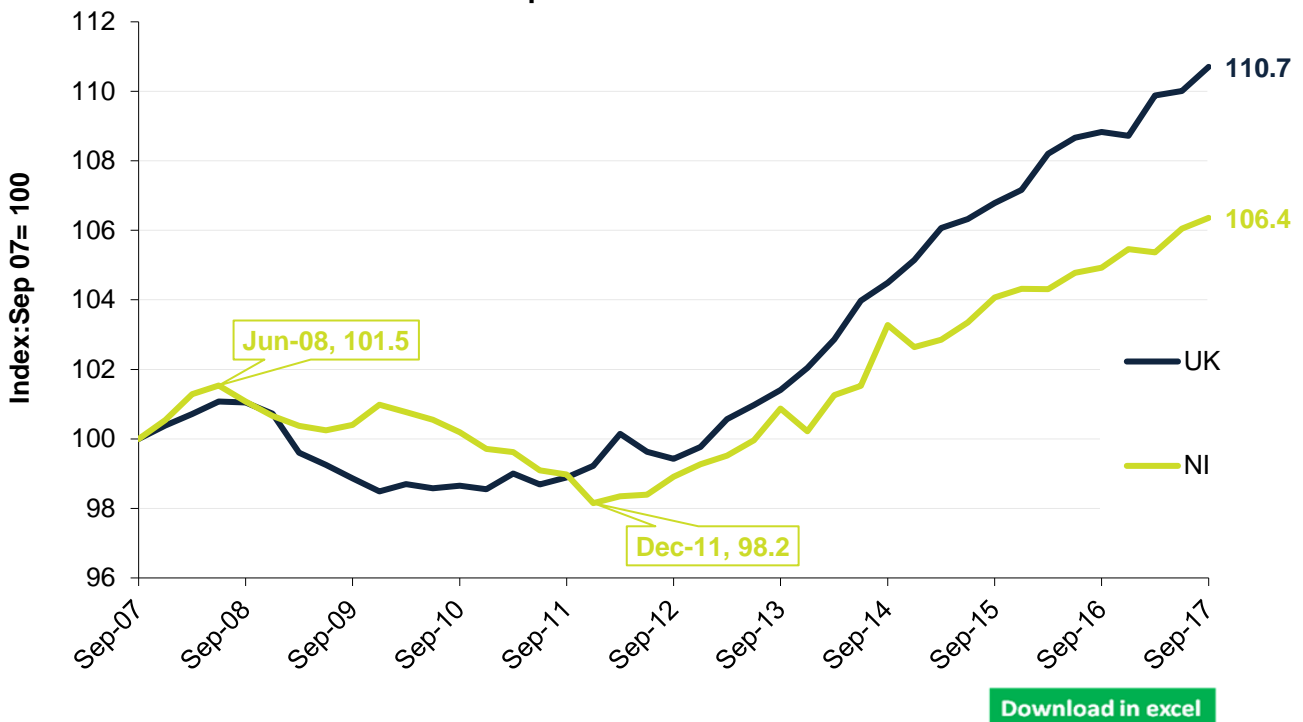
Services sector

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 accounted for 81% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 0.3% over the quarter to September 2017 and an increase of 1.4% over the year to 612,460 service sector jobs.
- The services sector accounted for the majority (71%) of growth over the year and has been driving the recovery since the series low in employee jobs in December 2011.

Figure 2.4: Index of Services Employee Jobs, September 2007 – September 2017



Figures are indexed to September 2007

Over the last 10 years the services sector in both NI and the UK increased overall reaching their peak in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI services sector increased by 36,620 over the 10 year period.

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% 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 0.3% (1,780 jobs) over the quarter and by 1.4% (8,250 jobs) over the year to 612,460 in September 2017.

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 September 2017 the unadjusted figures reported an increase of 1.4% (8,180 jobs) in the services sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 7.7% (2,920 jobs) in food and beverage service activities.
- an increase of 11.0% (1,570 jobs) in land transport and transport via pipelines.
- an increase of 13.0% (1,470 jobs) in computer programming, consultancy and related activities.

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

- a decrease of 3.8% (-3,510 jobs) in retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- a decrease of 3.8% (-940 jobs) in wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- a decrease of 4.6% (-480 jobs) in accommodation.

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.12 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

When using table 5.12 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 5 – Further Info.

Other industries sector

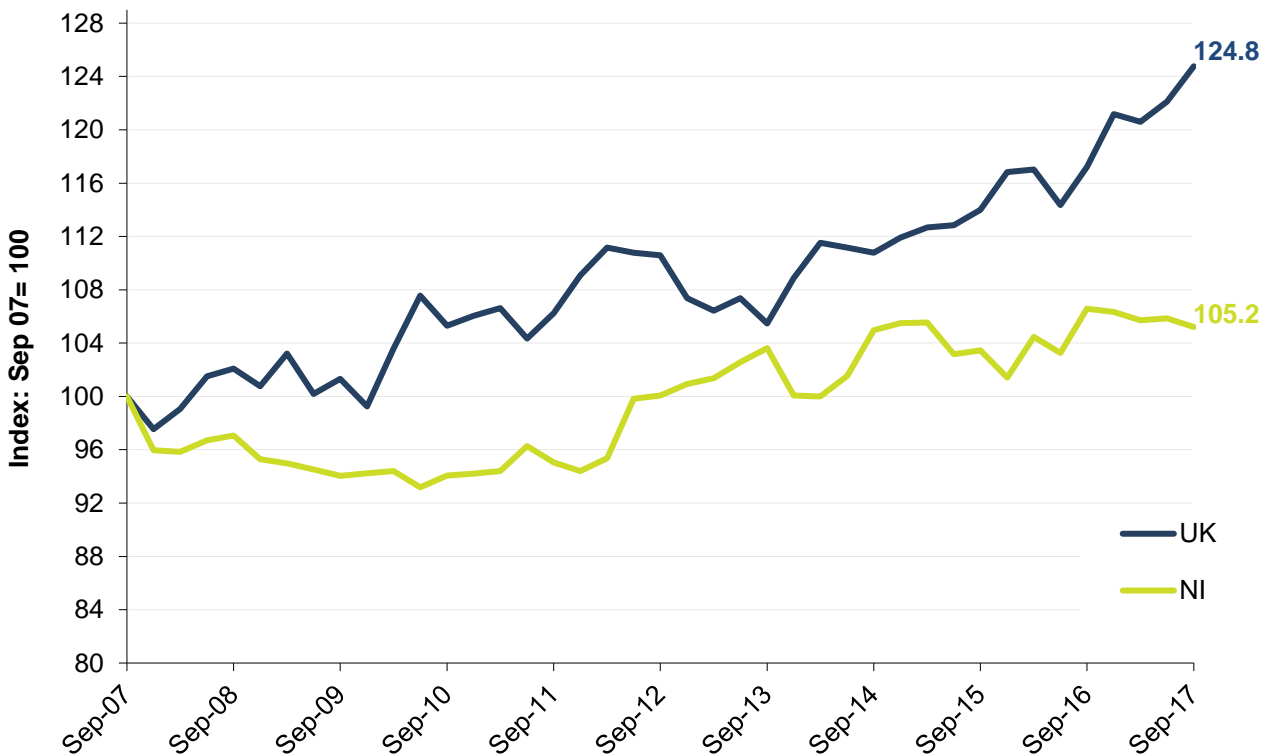
Other industries sector: the other industries sector contains businesses with activity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (industry sections A,B,D and E).

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:

- The other industries sector made up 3% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed a decrease of 0.6% in the other industries sector over the quarter to September 2017 and a decrease of 1.3% over the year to 22,140 jobs.

Figure 2.5: Index of Other Industries Sector Jobs, September 2007 - September 2017



Figures are indexed to September 2007

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Over the last 10 years the other industries sector in NI and the UK increased overall with NI reaching its peak in September 2016 and the UK reaching its peak in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI other industries sector increased by 1,100 over the 10 year period to September 2017.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the other industries sector decreased by 0.6% (-140 jobs) over the quarter and decreased by 1.3% (-290 jobs) over the year to 22,140 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 September 2017 the unadjusted figures showed a decrease of 1.3% (-290 jobs) in the other industries sector. The 3 largest contributors to this decrease over the year were:

- a decrease of 12.8% (-280 jobs) in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- a decrease of 1.2% (-50 jobs) in waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery
- a decrease of 2.8% (-50 jobs) in other mining and quarrying.

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

- an increase of 0.6% (80 jobs) in crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities
- an increase of 9.2% (30 jobs) in sewerage
- an increase of 7.1% (10 jobs) in fishing and aquaculture.

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.12 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

When using table 5.12 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% and the private sector made up 73% of all employee jobs.**
- **Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the public sector decreased over the quarter and increased over the year to 205,700 jobs.**
- **Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the private sector increased over the quarter and increased over the year to 545,760 jobs.**
- **NI Public sector jobs as a proportion of the NI population was 11%. This compares to 8% in the UK (at June 2016 – latest population estimates available).**

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

- 205,700 employees in the NI public sector.
- 545,760 employees in the NI private sector.

Changes over the quarter

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- a decrease of 0.1% (-220 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 0.5% (2,740 jobs) in the private sector.

Changes over the year

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- an increase of 0.3% (680 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 2.1% (11,200 jobs) in the private sector.

4 Composition of employee jobs

Data in this section have not been adjusted for seasonality.

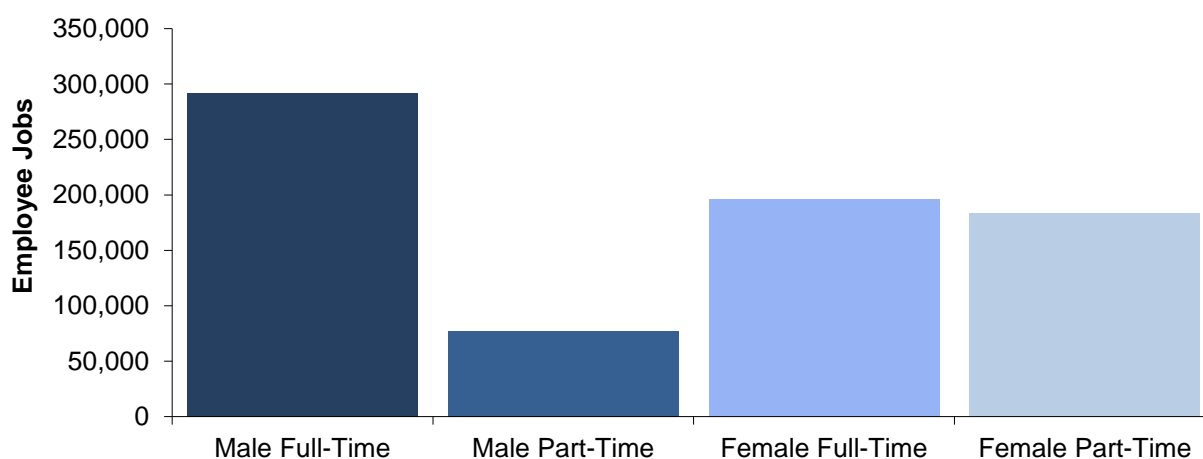
Part-time: Part-time means those who normally work 30 hours a week or less.

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

Key Findings

- Over half of employee jobs in NI were occupied by females.
- A higher proportion of female employees worked part-time than male employees.
- An increase in full-time jobs over the quarter and year.
- A decrease in part-time jobs over the quarter and an increase in part-time jobs over the year.

Fig 4.1: Composition of Employee Jobs, September 2017

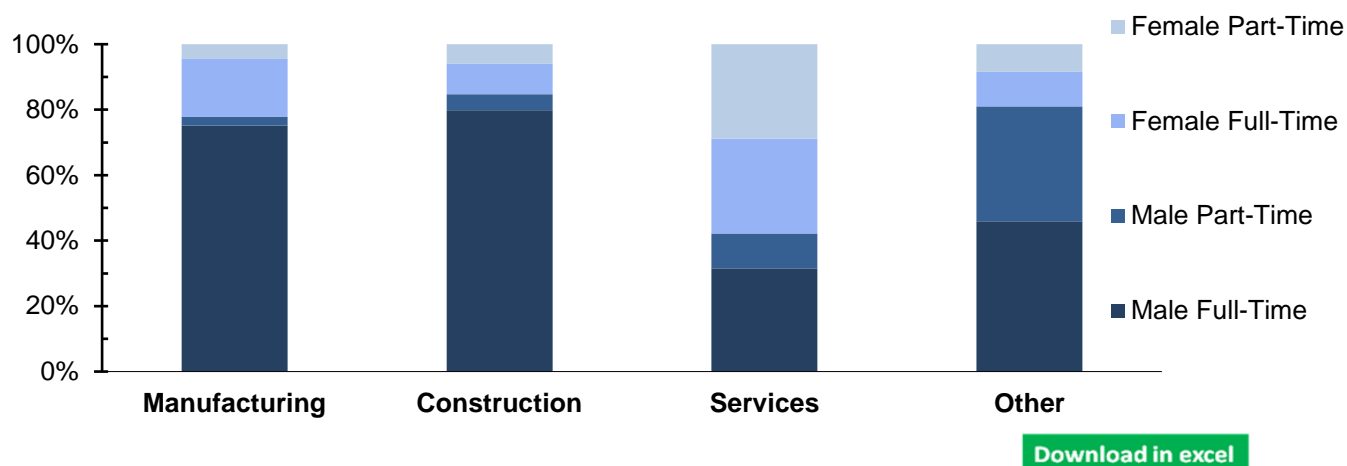


[Download in excel](#)

Estimates show there were 748,770 employee jobs in NI at September 2017. Of these:

- 50.7% of employee jobs were occupied by a female and 49.3% were occupied by a male.
- Just under half (48.3%) of female employee jobs were part-time.
- 79.1% of male employees worked on a full-time basis.

Fig 4.2: Employee Jobs Composition in Broad Industry Sectors, September 2017



The latest estimates showed that:

- A large proportion of employee jobs in the construction (79.8%) and manufacturing (75.2%) sectors were occupied by male full-time employees.
- Females occupied 57.8% of the 609,240 employee jobs within the services sector.
- The composition of female jobs in the services sector is divided evenly between full-time (50.0%) and part-time (50.0%) workers.

Changes over the year

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 7,560 full-time jobs and an increase of 4,010 part-time jobs.
- full-time employee jobs increased by 1,890 jobs in the manufacturing sector whilst part-time jobs decreased by 300 jobs over the year.
- full-time employee jobs increased by 2,830 jobs in the construction sector whilst part-time jobs decreased by 730 jobs over the year.
- part-time jobs accounted for 62.0% of the increase of 8,180 jobs in the services sector over the year.
- full-time employee jobs in the other industries sector decreased by 260 jobs and part-time jobs decreased by 30 jobs 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). Until March 2016, employee job data was collected in the voluntary QES. From March 2016 onwards the QES, Index of Services (IOS) and Index of Production (IOP) amalgamated into the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). The QBS is a statutory survey collected under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988. The QES, IOS and IOP are sampled independently and there is an overlap between QES and IOS/IOP of approximately 2,000 businesses. The change in the collection method has not impacted on the employee jobs methodology.

The QES element of the QBS covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. The QBS collects employee data split by gender and working pattern. The sample size is such that estimates of total employee jobs should be accurate to within +/- 1% of the [Business Register and Employment Survey](#) total. 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, there is no breach of confidentiality.

Revisions Policy

It is normal practice for QES estimates to be revised. 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. A common pitfall in interpreting series is that expectations of accuracy and reliability in early estimates are often too high. Revisions are an inevitable consequence of the trade-off between timeliness and accuracy. Early estimates are based on incomplete data.

Very few statistical revisions arise as a result of 'errors' in the popular sense of the word. All estimates, by definition, are subject to statistical 'error' but in this context the word refers to the uncertainty inherent in any process or calculation that uses sampling, estimation or modelling. Most revisions reflect either the adoption of new statistical techniques, or the incorporation of new information, which allows the statistical error of previous statements to be reduced. Only rarely are there avoidable 'errors' such as human or system failures, and such mistakes are made quite clear when they do occur.

QES estimates are revised quarterly to reflect the latest information provided to the Department by employers. The June 2017 seasonally adjusted estimate first published in September 2017 has subsequently been revised down (-0.02%).

Additional revisions to the period December 2015 to September 2017 have been carried out due to the way in which DBR classify new businesses. If a business does not specify a SIC code it is assigned to SIC 74 or 82, under the assumption it will be correct during proving. This was causing increases in these SIC codes. As a result, the decision was made to remove unproven businesses in SIC codes 74 and 82 from the population for grossing purposes for the period for which revisions apply (December 2015 until September 2017 – subsequent time periods are fixed and cannot be amended). QES uses the frozen variables on IDBR for sampling and assigning business activity. These variables are updated in January of each year and remain fixed for the remainder of the year.

So another action taken was to take businesses which have been proved and subsequently had a SIC code change were assigned to this new SIC code at the point in time in which it was updated on the IDBR which usually wouldn't come into effect until the January of the next year when frozen variables are updated.

For further details of QES revisions please see link below:

[QES Revisions](#)

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 1.5% for Q3 2017 is the average of jobs figures from Q4 2016 to Q3 2017 minus the average of jobs figures from Q4 2015 to Q3 2016 divided by the average of jobs figures from Q4 2015 to Q3 2016. This measure allows for comparison in growth to previous years and is useful in determining trends in the data.

Coverage

The quarterly survey covers all industrial sections apart from agriculture. Overall employment (i.e. employees and the self-employed) 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. Self-employed agriculture workers are defined as including full-time farmers and partners on all agricultural businesses. 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. Only the numbers of employees from the Farm Census are included in the QES estimates.

Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website:

[Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Public Sector

Public sector jobs comprise Central Government (including Bodies under the aegis of Central Government), Local Government and Public Corporations. An announcement in April 1993 transferred National Health Service Trusts from 'Bodies under the aegis of Central Government' to 'Public Corporations'. A subsequent announcement by the Public Sector Classification Committee (PSCC) in July 2003 stated that all NHS Trusts should retrospectively be reclassified to Central Government. In addition, following advice from PSCC, Northern Ireland Housing Executive employees were reclassified from SIC 75 to SIC 70 in December 2006. This change applies to each quarter from Quarter 1 2004 onwards. From 1st April 2007, The Water Service became a Government owned company known as "Northern Ireland Water". As a result its employees have been transferred from "NI Central Government" to "Bodies under the Aegis of NI Central Government". In October 2013 the PSCC announced that Royal Mail plc had been reclassified to the private sector. It is therefore included in the public sector for September 2013 and earlier periods, but not for subsequent periods. In December 2013 a further announcement by the PSCC reclassified Lloyds Banking Group and its subsidiaries to the private sector. They are therefore included in public sector estimates from December 2008 to December 2013 but not in earlier or subsequent periods.

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](#)

Discontinuity

Users of QES data should be aware that 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 3 main sources of this information namely the NI QES, the NI Census of Employment and the new NI 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](#)

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. The refresh to the IDBR variables as mentioned in the revisions section (source BRES) also effects the SIC code businesses are classified into. For more detail please see information document on the [Revisions](#) web page.

Further Information

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

[Background Information](#)

Further breakdowns of employee jobs by geography and industry are available from the BRES:

[Annual Employee Jobs Surveys](#)

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

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