

# Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey



## September 2015 (including first release June 2015)

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Geographical Area: Northern Ireland

Theme: Labour Market

Frequency: Quarterly



### Key Points

The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) is a business survey that has been carried out in Northern Ireland since 1978. 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. This release includes revisions and correction to previous results following suspension of the QES in June 2015. These have had limited impact on the overall series.

- The September 2015 seasonally adjusted employee jobs figure stands at 729,740, an increase of 0.4% (or 2,690 jobs) from the June 2015 estimate and 1.2% (8,480) from the revised September 2014 estimate.
- While job growth remains positive, this was the lowest annual increase in Northern Ireland (NI) jobs since June 2013. Great Britain (GB) has also seen a slowdown in the rate of growth since September 2014.
- The increase in NI employee jobs occurred in both the services and manufacturing sectors over the quarter and over the year. It should be noted that the reference period for the survey (7th September 2015) preceded some recent well publicised job losses that are anticipated to occur in the manufacturing sector.
- Over the quarter, seasonally adjusted employee jobs increased in the manufacturing sector by 0.6% (510 jobs) and in the services sector by 0.4% (2,270 jobs). There were marginal decreases in the construction sector of 0.1% (-30 jobs) and in the other industries sector of 0.3% (-60 jobs).
- The September 2015 seasonally adjusted public sector employee jobs figure stands at 206,390. This represents a decrease of 0.8% (-1,610 jobs) since June 2015 and a decrease over the year of 1.8% (-3,880 jobs).
- The September 2015 seasonally adjusted private sector employee jobs figure stands at 521,540. This represents an increase of 0.7% (3,470 jobs) since June 2015 and an increase of 2.4% (12,090 jobs) over the year.
- Since 2012 employee jobs have increased by 5.0% (34,770 jobs) with 83% 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**

## **6. Index of Tables**

### **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.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

This bulletin includes the first release of both June and September 2015 estimates following additional quality assurance of the earlier series. An error was detected in the March 2015 release but this has had limited impact on the overall series.

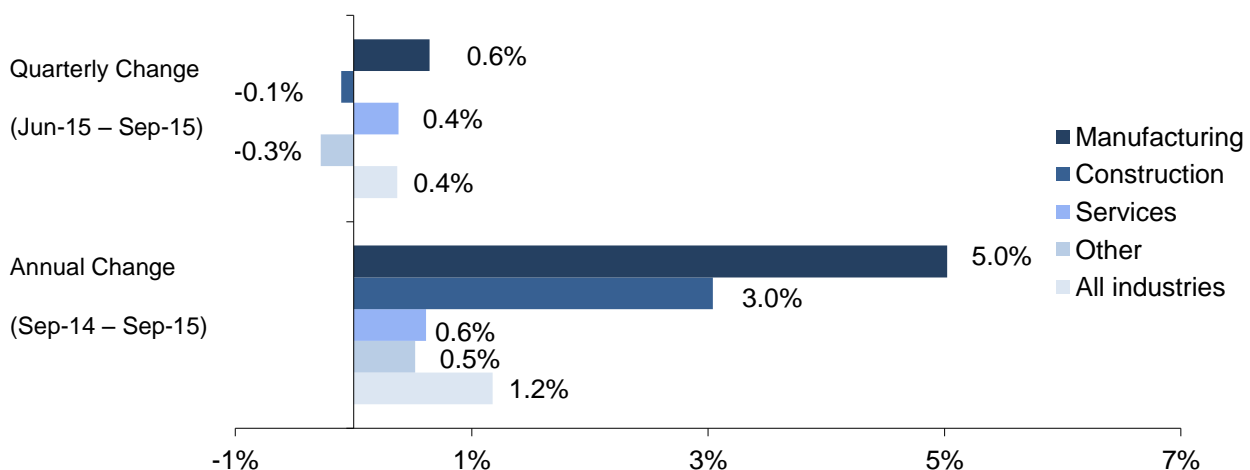
Further information on this and on some methodological changes can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions](#)

## Change in employee jobs

The seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimate for Northern Ireland (NI) at September 2015 was 729,740, this was:

- an increase of 0.4% (2,690 jobs) over the quarter from the June 2015 estimate of 727,050.
- an increase of 1.2% (8,480 jobs) over the year from the revised September 2014 estimate of 721,260.

**Fig 1.1: Annual and Quarterly Changes in Employee Jobs at section level**



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## Change over the quarter

Comparing seasonally adjusted September 2015 employee jobs to the June 2015 estimates showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 0.6% (510 jobs) to 80,460 jobs.
- a decrease in the construction sector by 0.1% (-30 jobs) to 29,610 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector by 0.4% (2,270 jobs) to 597,630 jobs.
- a decrease in the other industries sector by 0.3% (-60 jobs) at 22,030 jobs.

## Change over the year

Over the year, September 2014 to September 2015, the seasonally adjusted employee jobs figures showed increases across all four industry sectors:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 5.0% (3,850 jobs) to 80,460 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector by 3.0% (870 jobs) to 29,610 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector by 0.6% (3,640 jobs) to 597,630 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector by 0.5% (110 jobs) to 22,030 jobs.

Comparing unadjusted data over the year, estimates show:

- Computer programming, consultancy & related activities, retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles and legal and accounting activities saw the greatest increases over the year accounting for 22% of all increases in employee jobs (all three sections are in the services sector).
- Human health activities, public administration and defence; compulsory social security and education saw the greatest decreases over the year accounting for 38% of all decreases (all three sections are in the services sector).
- The increases in employee jobs over the year outweighed the decreases.

## Change over the past three years

The first sign of recovery after the decline in employee jobs was in 2012, over the period September 2012 to September 2015, the seasonally adjusted employee job figures increased by 5.0% (34,770 jobs). The increases were seen across three of the four industry sectors:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 8.1% (6,020 jobs).
- an decrease in the construction sector by 3.4% (-1,070 jobs).
- an increase in the services sector by 5.1% (28,850 jobs).
- an increase in the other industries sector by 4.6% (970 jobs).

Comparing unadjusted data over this three year period, estimates show

- Employment activities, wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, health care activities<sup>1</sup>, food and beverage service activities, social work activities without accommodation, computer programming, consultancy and related activities, and services to buildings and landscape activities accounted for 48% of increases over the three year period. All these drivers are in the services sector.
- Public administration and defence; compulsory social security, financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding, manufacture of electrical equipment, and specialised construction activities accounted for 51% of all decreases over the three year period.
- The increases in employee jobs over the period outweighed the decreases.

## Public / private sector changes

Seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimates for the public and private sector at September 2015 showed:

- a decrease of 0.8% (-1,610 jobs) in the public sector over the quarter and a decrease of 1.8% (-3,880 jobs) over the year to 206,390 jobs.

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<sup>1</sup> Health care activities includes SIC86 human health activities and SIC87 residential care activities.

- an increase of 0.7% (3,470 jobs) in the private sector over the quarter and an increase of 2.4% (12,090 jobs) over the year to 521,540 jobs.

### Commentary

Over the quarter jobs growth was largest in the services sector, which accounts for 82% of all employee jobs, showing an increase of 2,270 jobs (0.4%). In relative terms the largest quarterly increase was experienced in the manufacturing sector, where employee jobs increased by 0.6% (510 jobs).

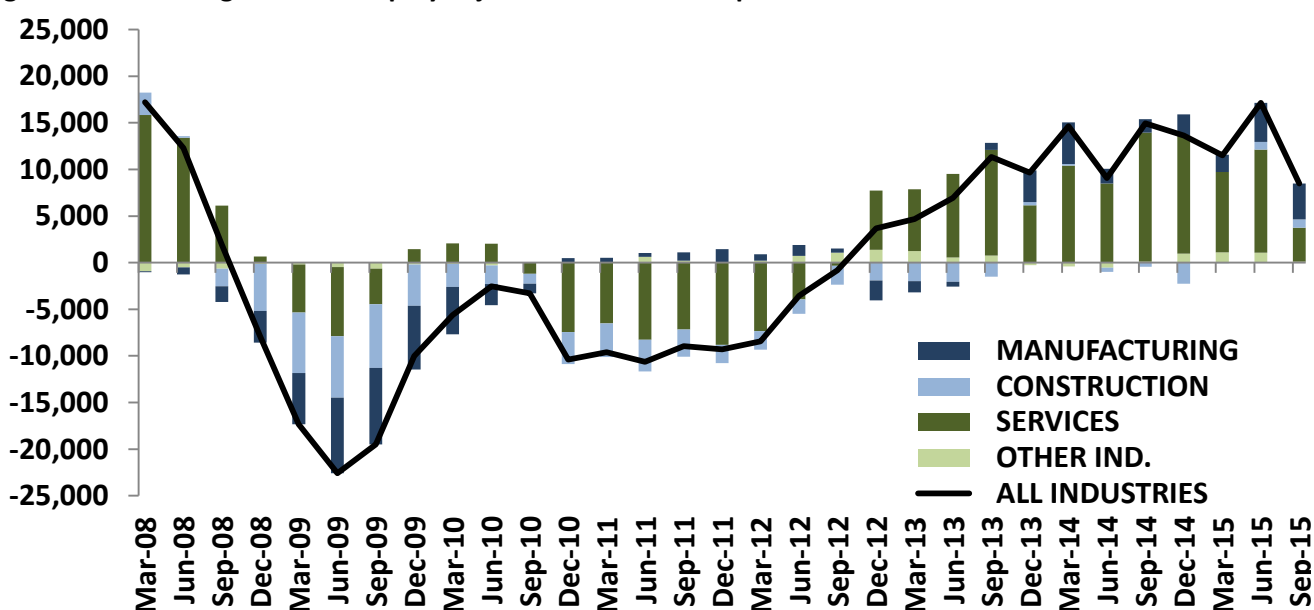
Over the year jobs growth was driven by the manufacturing sector which experienced the largest growth both in real terms and relative terms increasing by 5.0% (3,850 jobs). Increases of 3,640 jobs, 870 jobs and 110 jobs were experienced in the services, construction and other industries sectors respectively.

Employee jobs have continued to increase over the year in NI to September 2015 (1.2% increase), however this is the lowest annual increase in Northern Ireland since June 2013. Great Britain has continued to grow at a faster rate than Northern Ireland (1.7% increase over the year to June 2015 – latest available) but has also seen a slowdown in the rate of growth with the annual growth decreasing steadily since September 2014.

As can be seen from Fig 1.2, NI employee jobs have increased year on year since 2012, with the services sector driving the increases. Although NI employee jobs have increased the overall job total is 0.5% lower than the 2008 peak. This however is not consistent across sectors, with the services and other industries jobs totals now above the 2008 peak (by 13,000 and 2,000 jobs respectively) and the manufacturing and construction sectors remaining below (by 3,000 and 15,000 jobs respectively).

Employee jobs in GB are now 3.3% above their series peak. Similarly to NI, the services and other industries have recovered to 2008 levels. While manufacturing and construction remain below the levels experienced at their peak.

Fig 1.2 Annual change in total employee jobs March 2008 – September 2015



Please note: it is like that the introduction of sample rotation from March 2014 has also contributed to the volatility of the series.

**Date of next publication**

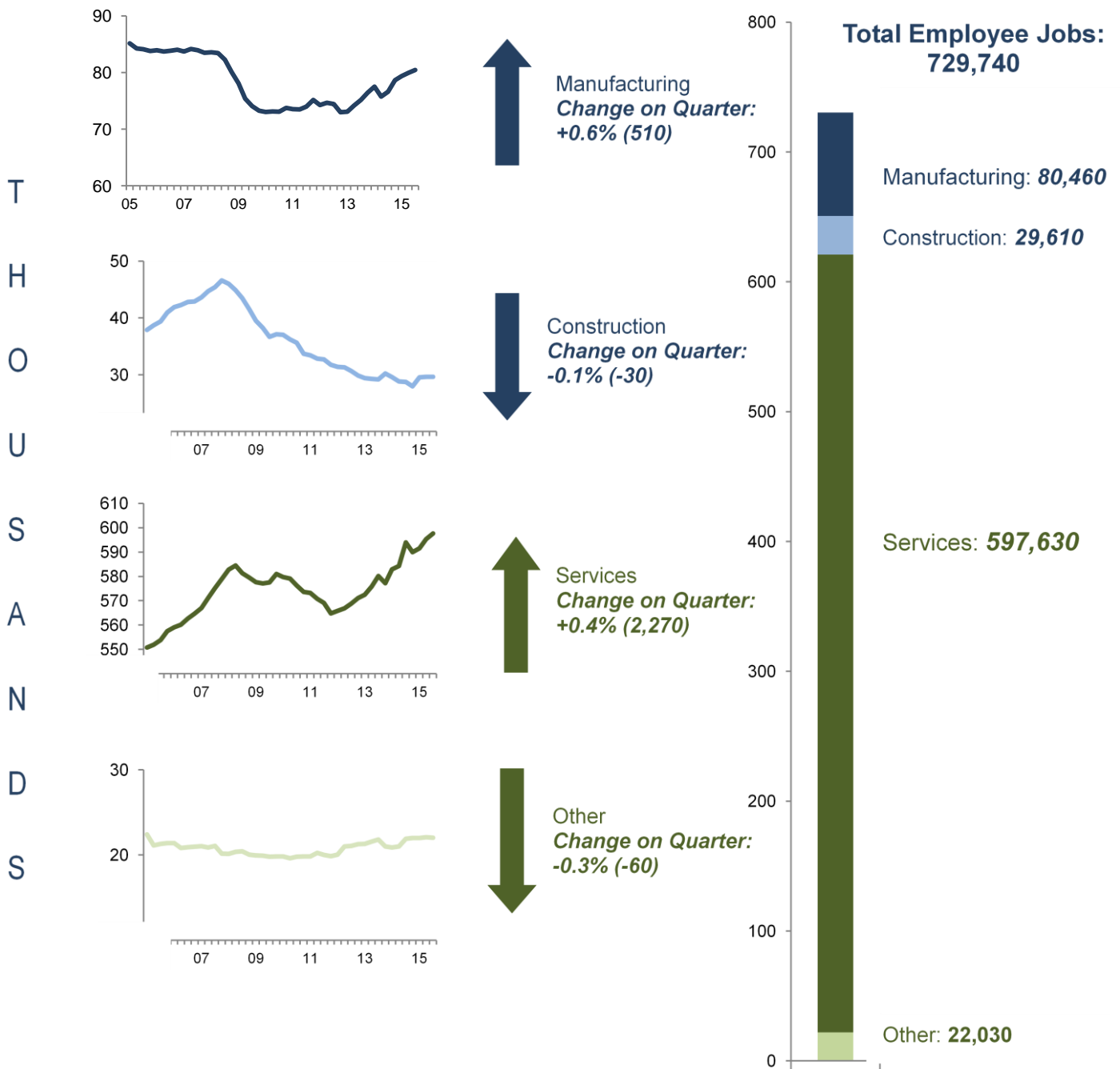
The next Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey is planned for 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016

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

# NISRA Labour Market Statistics

## Quarterly Employment Survey – September 2015

### QES latest quarterly change and trends over time



All data seasonally adjusted and subject to future revisions.  
Data published on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 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 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 and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and redundancies data. The current version and the archived versions 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 is used in the measurement of targets set in the Northern Ireland Executive's [Programme for Government](#) (PSA targets). QES data feed into productivity estimates for NI and therefore indirectly used to measure progress towards PSA 1: Productivity growth.

QES employee jobs are included in the [DETI 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.

## Correction

This current publication also includes the first release of Quarter 2, 2015 results which were delayed due to the need for additional quality assurance after an error was discovered in the Quarter 1, 2015 release.

**Further information on the error and additional Quality Assurance completed 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 is conducted every two years, alternating with the biennial Census of Employment. 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 jobskills 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 includes 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 and Rural Development's (DARD) Farm Census. 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 DARD 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 the [public sector table](#) of the website.

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

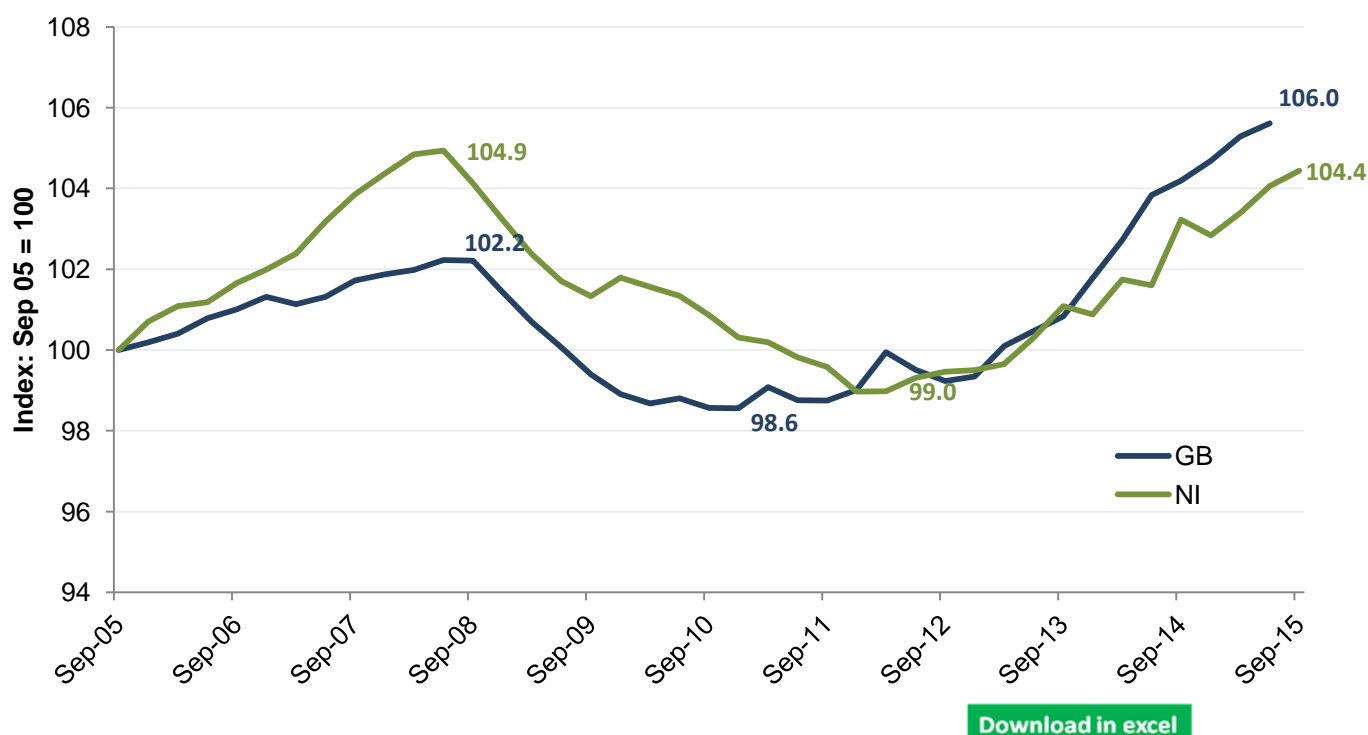
**Employee:** An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 years or over that is directly paid from a businesses payroll for carrying out a full-time or part time job or being on a training scheme in Northern Ireland.

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

### Key Findings:

- Employee jobs increased over the quarter and year to 729,740.

Figure 2.1: Index of employee jobs, September 2005 – September 2015



Figures are indexed to September 2005  
The latest available GB figures relate to June 2015

Figure 2.1 shows the estimated seasonally adjusted employee jobs, indexed to allow comparison between NI and GB. Both series peaked in June 2008 with GB reaching its lowest point in December 2010 – just over one year before the NI low in December 2011. GB is now above its pre-downturn peak whereas NI remains 0.5% below the pre-downturn peak.

## **Employee Jobs**

The September 2015 seasonally adjusted employee jobs total in NI stands at 729,740, which was:

- an increase of 0.4% (2,690 jobs) from the June 2015 estimate of 727,050
- an increase of 1.2% (8,480 jobs) over the year.

## **Employee jobs by broad industry sector**

The seasonally adjusted quarterly change consisted of:

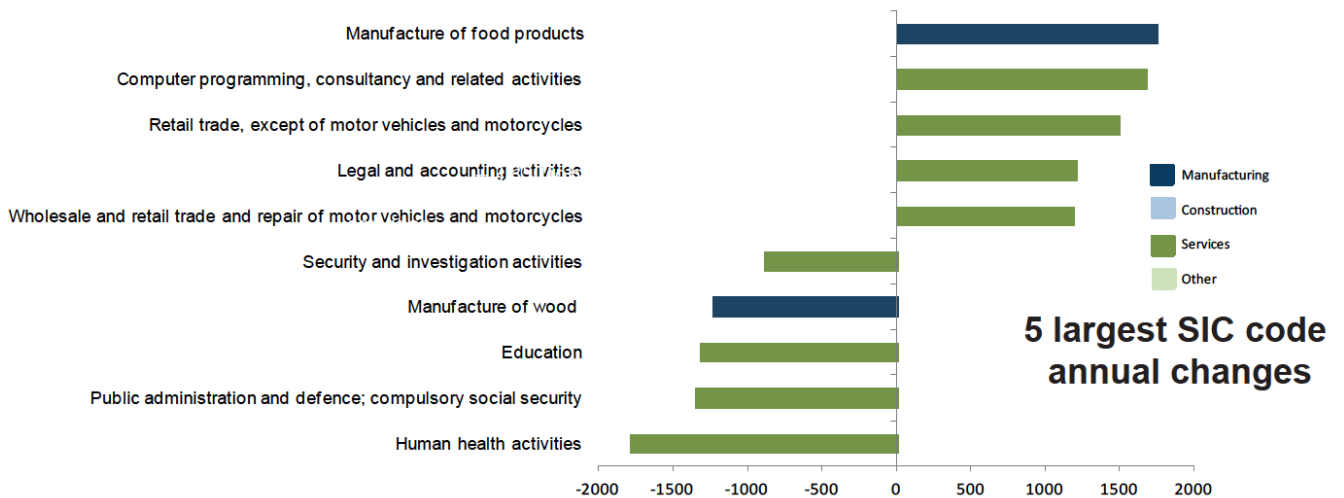
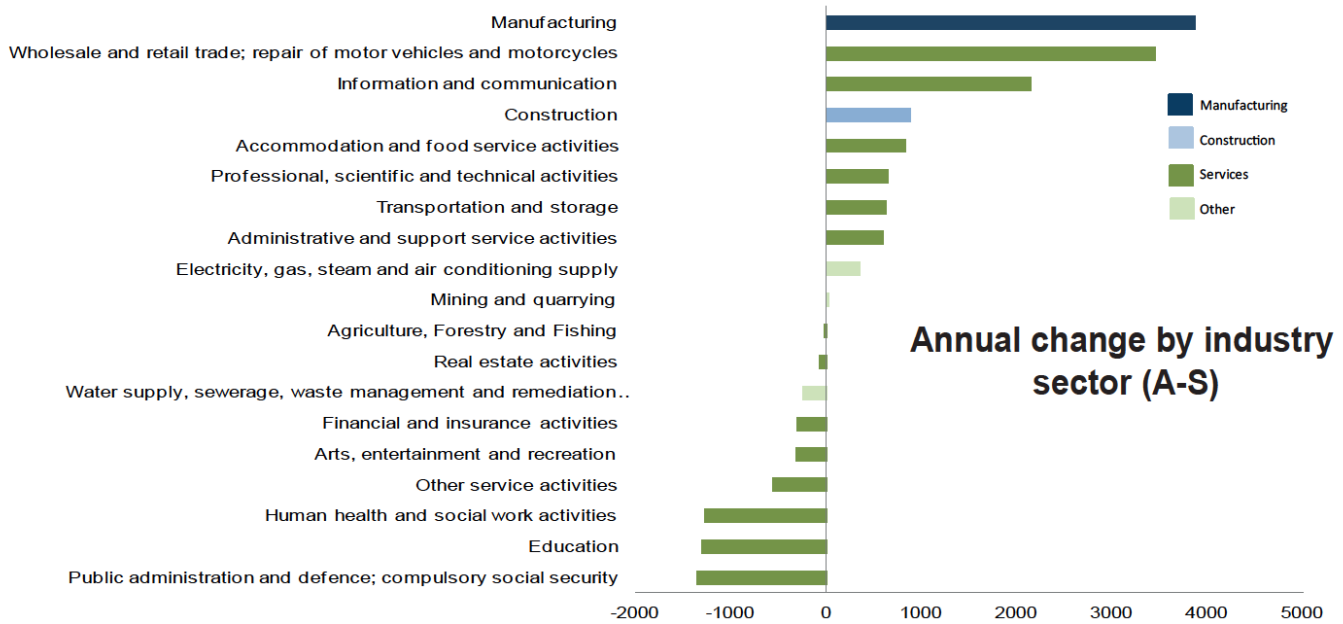
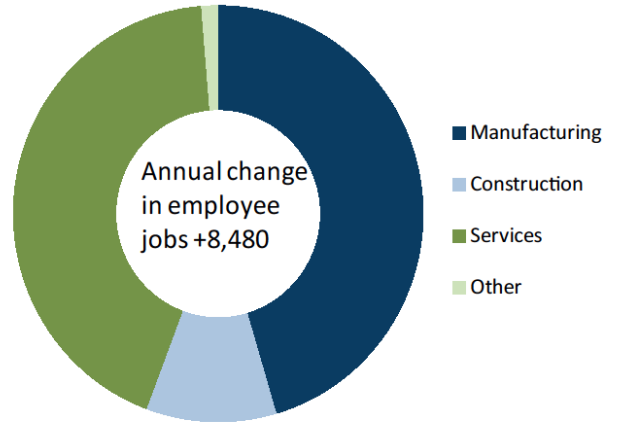
- an increase of 0.6% in the manufacturing sector (510 jobs) to 80,460 jobs.
- a decrease of 0.1% in the construction sector (-30 jobs) to 29,610 jobs.
- an increase of 0.4% in the services sector (2,270 jobs) to 597,630 jobs.
- a decrease of 0.3% in the other industries sector (-60 jobs) to 22,030 jobs.

The seasonally adjusted annual change consisted of:

- an increase of 5.0% in the manufacturing sector (3,850 jobs)
- an increase of 3.0% in the construction sector (870 jobs)
- an increase of 0.6% in the services sector (3,640 jobs)
- an increase of 0.5% in the other industries sector (110 jobs).

# Employee jobs summary, September 2014 - September 2015

## Annual change by industry sector



Data published on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 by Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA)



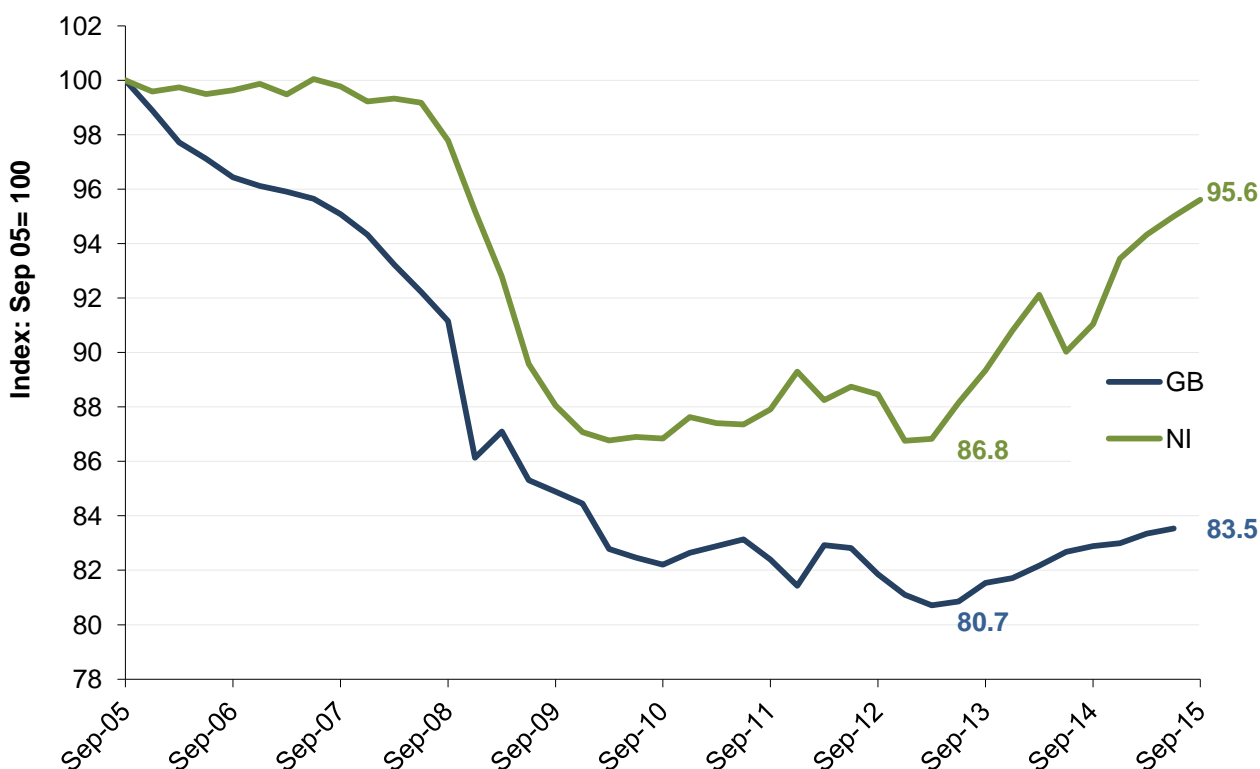
## Manufacturing sector

**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 accounts for 11% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures show an increase of 0.6% in the manufacturing sector over the quarter to September 2015 and an increase of 5.0% over the year to 80,460 jobs.

**Figure 2.2: Index of manufacturing employee jobs, September 2005 – September 2015**



Figures are indexed to September 2005  
The latest available GB figures relate to June 2015

[Download in excel](#)

The manufacturing sector in NI experienced a period of sharp decline between June 2008 and September 2009 before reaching a series low in December 2012. GB showed decreases in the number of employee jobs in the manufacturing from September 2005, with a series low occurring in March 2013. In December 2012 the NI manufacturing sector stood at 86.8% of the September 2005 figure and in March 2013 the GB figure stood at 80.7% of the September 2005 level.

Whilst the manufacturing sector in both NI and GB have increased since their series low, NI in September 2015 remains 4.4% below the level in 2005 and GB in June 2015 remains 16.5% lower than its 2005 level.

## Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data shows that the manufacturing sector increased by 0.6% (510 jobs) over the quarter and 5.0% (3,850 jobs) over the year to 80,460.

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 2015 the unadjusted figures show an increase of 5.0% (3,790 jobs) in the manufacturing sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase were:

- an increase of 10.1% (1,750 jobs) in the manufacture of food products
- an increase of 17.6% (880 jobs) in the manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.
- an increase of 10.3% (590 jobs) in the manufacture of rubber and plastic products.

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

- a decrease of 37.4% (-1,230 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 7.6% (-550 jobs) in the manufacture of transport equipment
- a decrease of 7.7% (-240 jobs) in the manufacture of electrical equipment.

**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](#)**

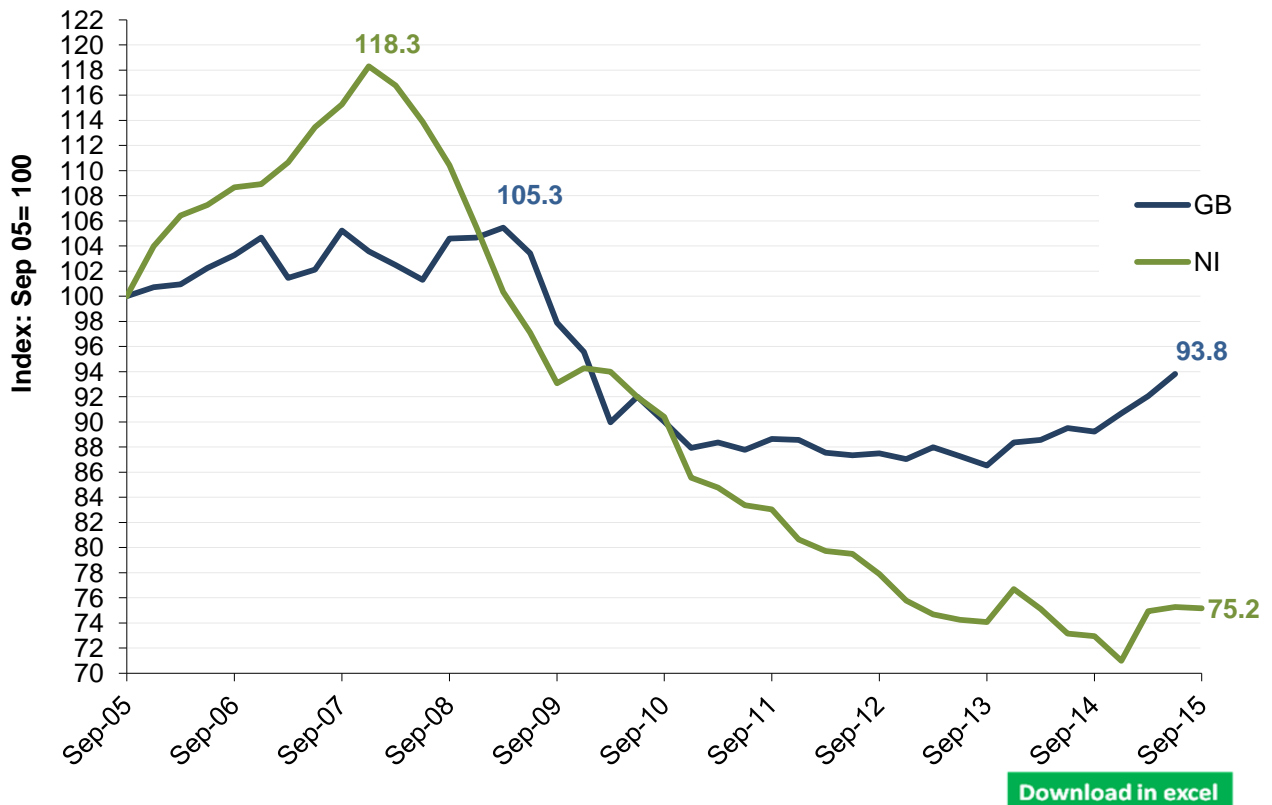
## Construction sector

**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 makes up 4% of the total employee jobs figure.
- Seasonally adjusted figures show a decrease of 0.1% over the quarter to September 2015 and an increase of 3.0% over the year to 29,610 jobs.

**Figure 2.3: Index of construction employee jobs in NI & GB, September 2005 – September 2015**



Figures are indexed to September 2005  
The latest available GB figures relate to June 2015

Over the past 10 years there has been an overall decrease in the construction sector in NI and GB. Between 2005 and 2007 NI experienced an increase reaching the series peak in December 2007 of 18.3% higher than the September 2005 level. GB also increased from September 2005 but reached its peak in March 2009 reaching a figure 5.5% higher than the September 2005 level.

Although the construction sector in both NI and GB has experienced an overall decrease since their series peaks both have shown increases in the past year. NI now stands at 75.2% of the September 2005 figure in September 2015 and GB stands at 93.8% of the September 2005 figure in June 2015.

## **Key Findings**

Seasonally adjusted data shows that the construction sector decreased by 0.1% (-30 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 3.0% (870 jobs) over the year to 29,610.

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

### **Changes over the year**

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 3.8% (560 jobs) in specialised construction activities
- an increase of 8.1% (500 jobs) in construction of buildings
- a decrease of 2.4% (-190 jobs) in civil engineering.

**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](#)**



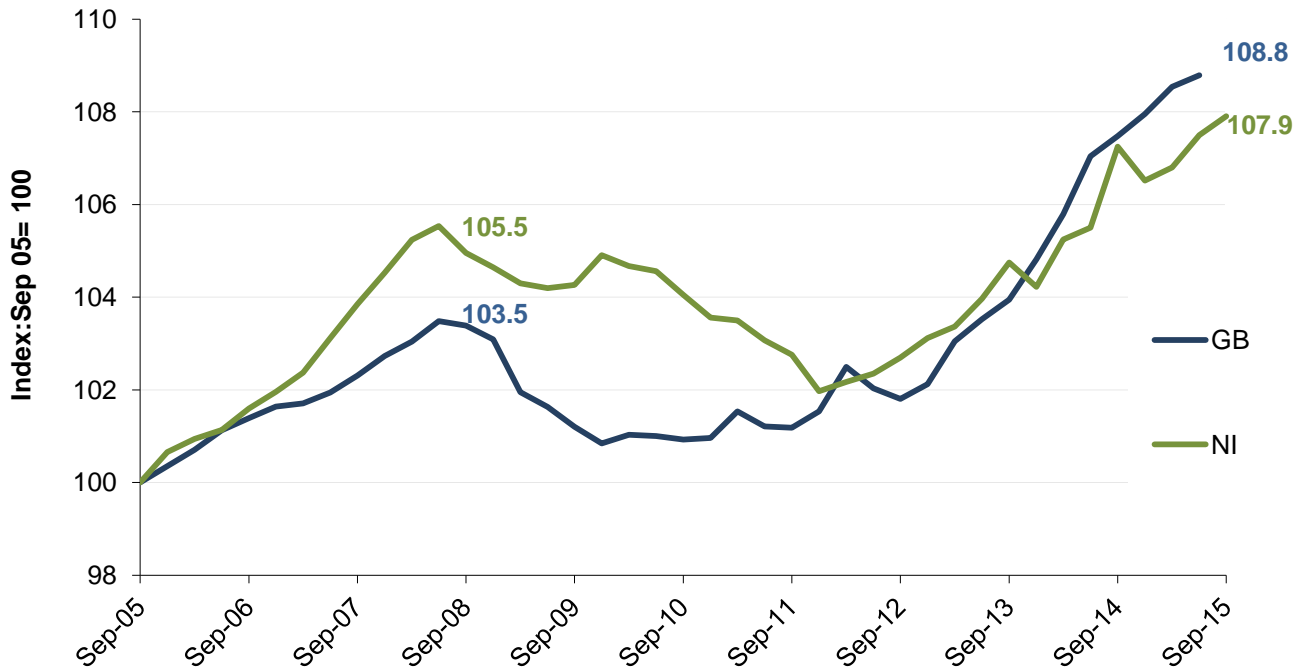
## Services sector

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

### Key Findings:

- The services sector accounts for 82% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures show an increase of 2,270 jobs in the services sector over the quarter to September 2015 and an increase of 0.6% (3,640 jobs) over the year to 597,630 jobs.

Figure 2.4: Index of services employee jobs in NI & GB, September 2005 – September 2015



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to September 2005  
The latest available GB figures relate to June 2015

Over the last 10 years the services sector in NI and GB experienced increases with both series reaching their peak in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI services sector increased by 43,790 over the 10 year period.

## Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data shows that the services sector increased by 0.4% (2,270 jobs) over the quarter and 0.6% (3,640 jobs) over the year to 597,630.

### Changes over the quarter

Over the quarter to September 2015 seasonally adjusted section levels figures show the largest increases over the quarter were:

- an increase of 7.2% (1,240 jobs) in information and communication
- an increase of 0.9% (1,150 jobs) in human health and social work activities
- an increase of 0.8% (1,080 jobs) in wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the sector. The 3 largest decreases in the section levels over the quarter were:

- a decrease of 2.9% (-1,330 jobs) in accommodation and food service activities
- a decrease of 0.7% (-470 jobs) in education
- a decrease of 0.8% (-450 jobs) in public administration and defence; compulsory social security

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 2015 the unadjusted figures show a 0.6% (3,550 jobs) increase in the services sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 17.7% (1,670 jobs) in computer programming, consultancy and related activities
- an increase of 1.7% (1,490 jobs) in retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- an increase of 11.7% (1,210 jobs) in legal and accounting activities.

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the sector. The 3 largest decreases in the sector over the quarter were:

- a decrease of 2.6% (-1,790 jobs) in human health activities
- a decrease of 2.5% (-1,350 jobs) in public administration and defence; compulsory social security
- a decrease of 1.9% (-1,310 jobs) in education

**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](#)**

## Other industries sector

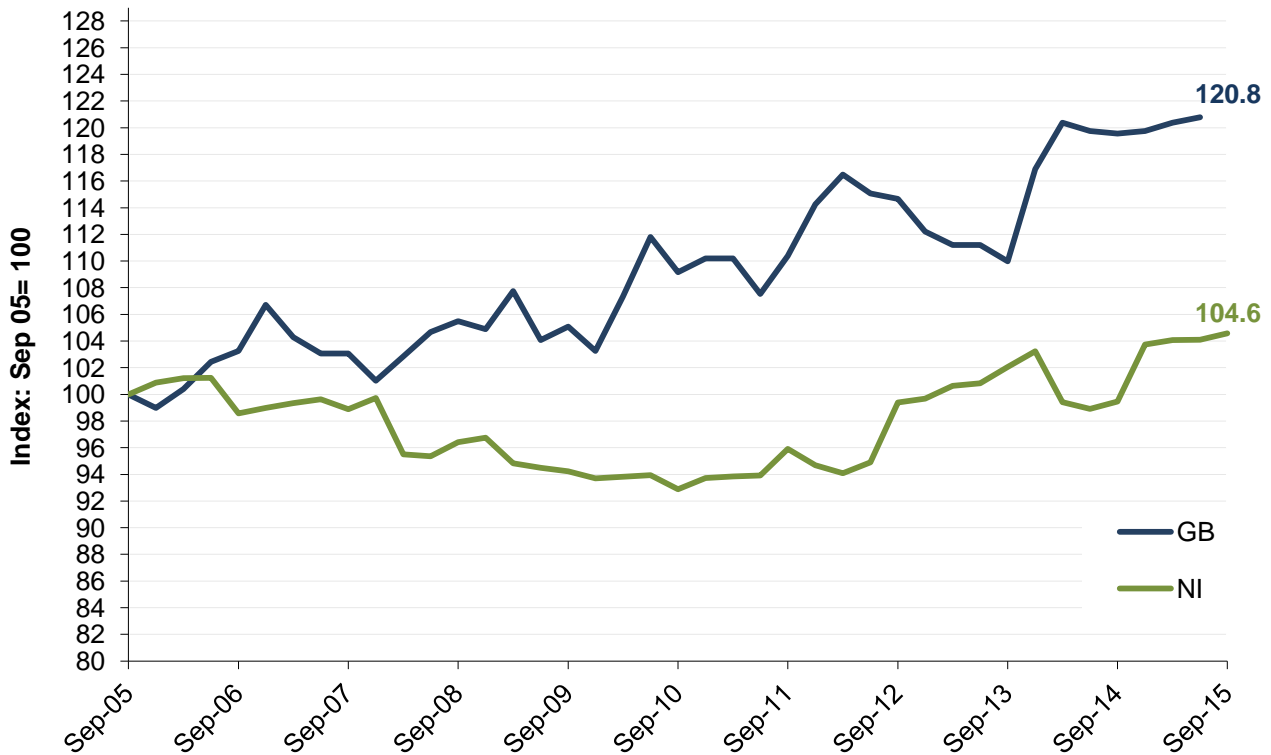
**Other industries sector:** the other industries sector contains businesses with activity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (industry sections A,B,D and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

Estimates from the annual Farm Census are included in industry section A (accounting for 95% of the employee jobs in the section). The Farm Census figures are updated annually.

### Key Findings:

- The other industries sector makes up 3.0% of all employee jobs.
- Other industries displays no seasonality at sector level, unadjusted figures show a decrease of 0.3% (-60 jobs) over the quarter to September 2015 and an increase of 0.5% over the year to 22,030.

Figure 2.5: Index of other industries sector jobs in NI & GB, September 2005 - September 2015



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to September 2005  
The latest available GB figures relate to June 2015

Over the last 10 years the other industries sector in NI and GB experienced increases with both series reaching their peak in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI other industries sector increased by 970 over the 10 year period.

## **Key Findings**

Seasonally adjusted data shows that the other industries sector decreased by 0.3% (-60 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 0.5% (110 jobs) over the year to 22,030.

### **Changes over the quarter**

Seasonally adjusted section level data show the largest changes over the quarter were:

- a decrease of 6.3% (-120 jobs) in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- a decrease of 3.0% (-150 jobs) in water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities

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

### **Changes over the year**

The largest contributor to the increase of 0.5% (110 jobs) in the other industries sector over the year was:

- an increase of 23.3% (340 jobs) in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply

This increase was partially offset by:

- a decrease of 7.6% (-300 jobs) in waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery

**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](#)**

# 3

## Public / private sector employee jobs

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

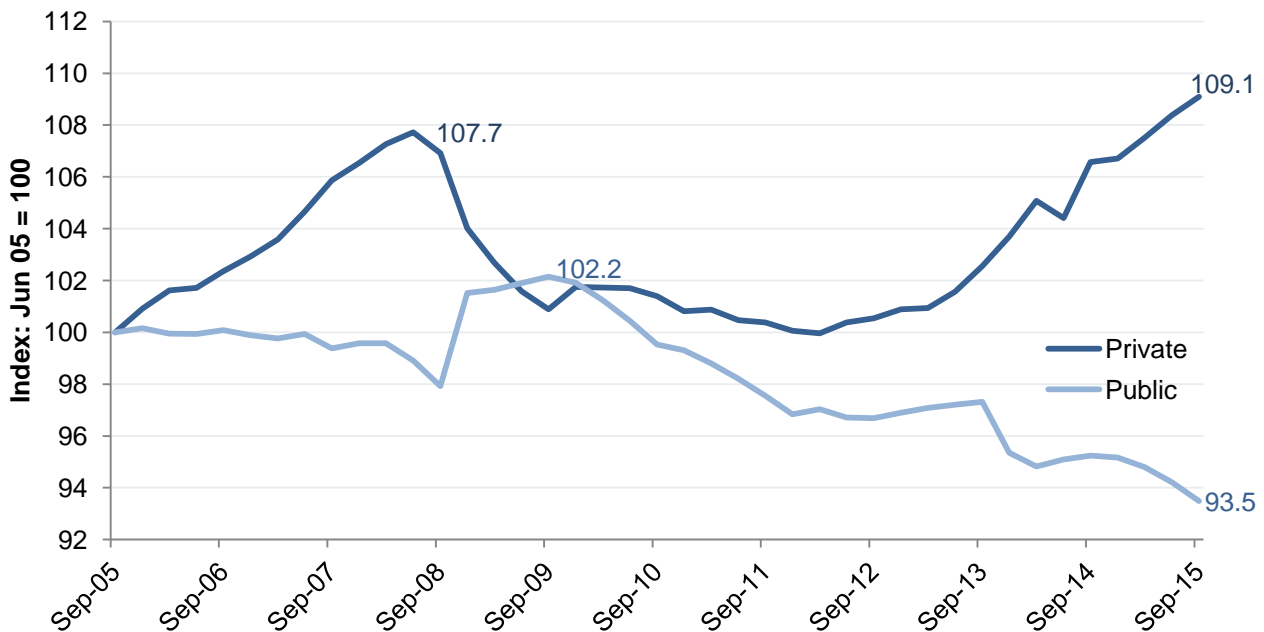
- NI central government
- Bodies under aegis of NI central government
- UK central government employees based in Northern Ireland
- Local government
- Public corporations

**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 public sector makes up 28% and the private sector makes up 72% of all employee jobs.
- Employee jobs in the private sector increased over the quarter and year to 521,540 jobs.
- Employee jobs in the public sector decreased over the quarter and year to 206,390 jobs.

Figure 3.1: Index of NI private and public sector jobs, September 2005 – September 2015



[Download in excel](#)

**Note:**

Royal Mail plc is included in the public sector for September 2013 and earlier periods, but not for subsequent periods. 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.

Over the period September 2005 to September 2015 the number of employee jobs in the private sector increased by 9.1% (43,490 jobs) and the number of employee jobs in the public sector decreased by 6.5% (-14,390 jobs). The current private sector figure stands at 1.3% higher than the

series peak which occurred in June 2008. The current public sector figure stands at 8.5% lower than the series peak which occurred in Q3 2009.

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

- 206,390 employees in the NI public sector
- 521,540 employees in the NI private sector.

#### **Changes over the quarter**

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represent:

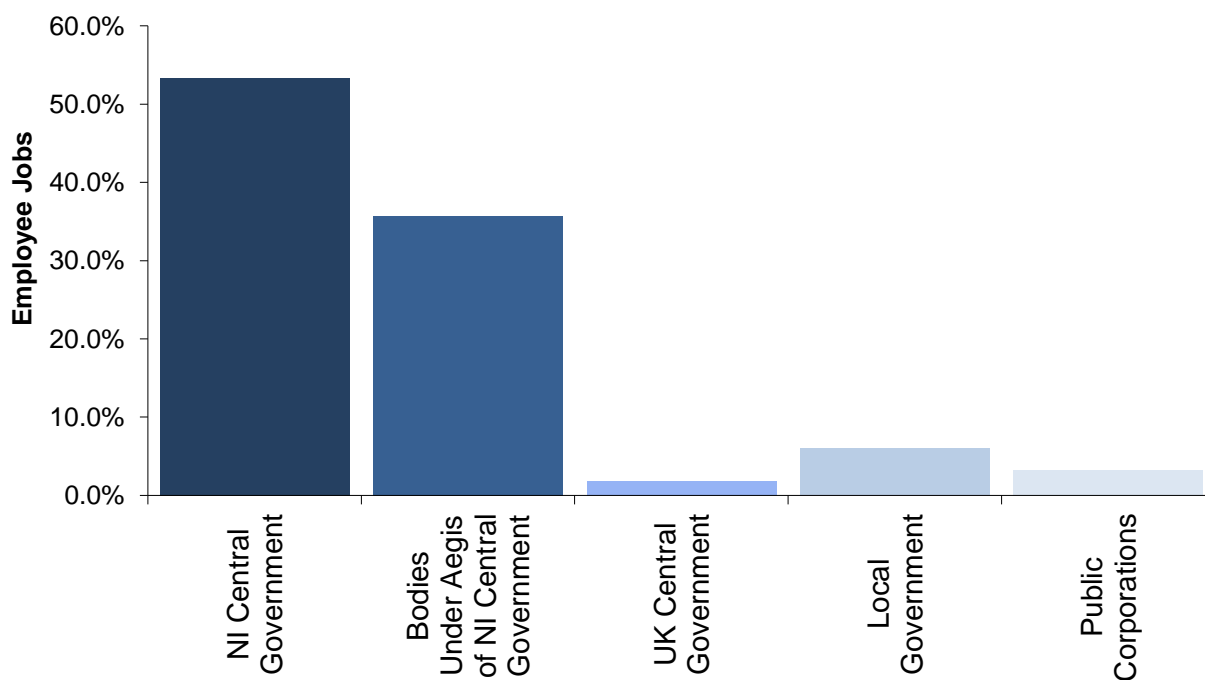
- a decrease of 0.8% (-1,610 jobs) in the public sector
- an increase of 0.7% (3,470 jobs) in the private sector.

#### **Changes over the year**

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represent:

- a decrease in the public sector of 1.8% (-3,880 jobs)
- an increase in the private sector of 2.4% (12,090 jobs).

**Figure 3.2 – Public sector employee jobs**



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The following breakdowns are based on public sector data that have not been adjusted for seasonality.

The NI public sector unadjusted employee jobs estimate for September 2015 stands at 204,562. This is made up of:

- 109,066 jobs in NI central government (or 53% of all public sector employee jobs). Of this 13.1% comes from government departments (26,861 employee jobs).
- 73,006 jobs (or 36%) in NI public sector are bodies under the aegis of NI central government.
- 12,168 jobs in Local Government (or 6% of public sector employee jobs).
- 6,706 jobs in Public Corporations (or 3% of public sector employee jobs).
- 3,617 jobs in UK central Government (or 2% of public sector employee jobs).

The NI public sector unadjusted employee jobs estimate for September 2015 shows:

- a decrease of 1.9% (-4,060 jobs) over the quarter.
- a decrease of 1.9% (-3,860 jobs) over the year from September 2014.
- the largest decrease over the quarter (-3,920 jobs) occurred in the Bodies Under Aegis of NI Central Government section of the public sector with the majority of the decrease coming from teaching and non-teaching staff(-3,770 jobs).

# 4

## Composition of employee jobs

Data in this section have not been adjusted for seasonality.

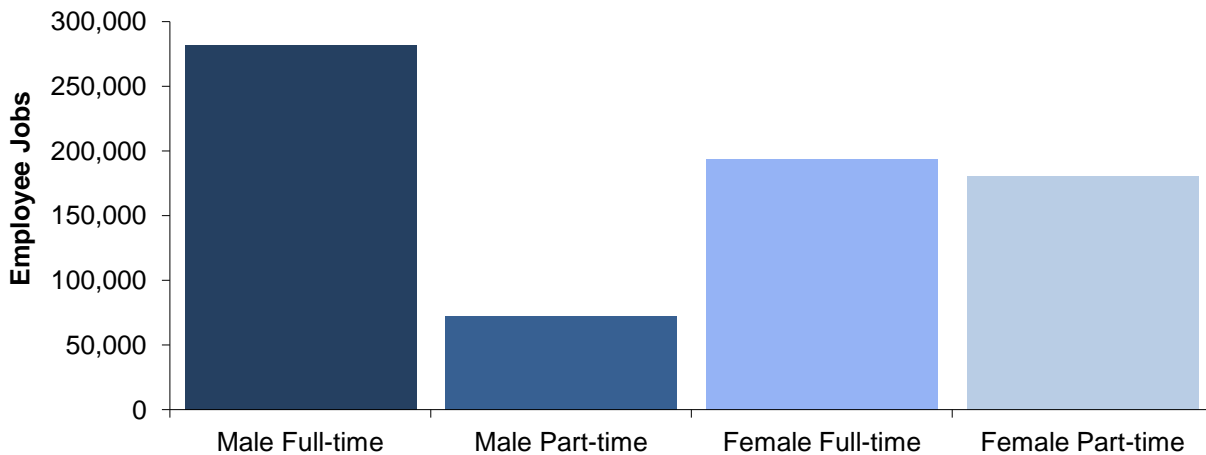
**Part-time:** Part-time means those who normally work 30 hours a week or less.

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

### Key Findings

- Over half of employees in NI are female.
- A higher proportion of female employees work part-time than male employees.

**Fig 4.1: Composition of Employee Jobs, September 2015**



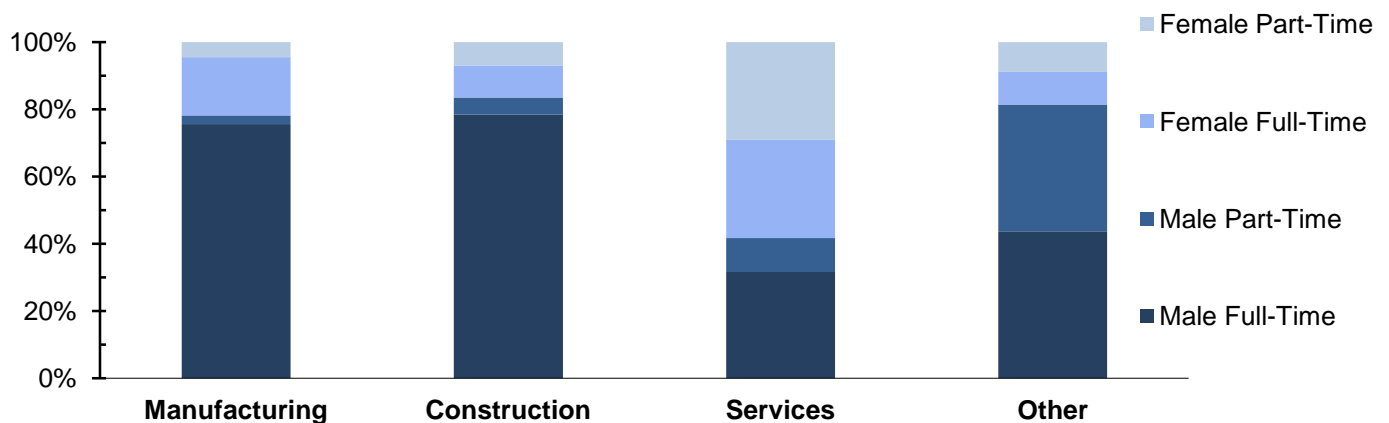
[Download in excel](#)

Estimates show there were 726,720 employee jobs in NI at September 2015. Of these:

- 51.3% of employee jobs were occupied by a female and 48.7% were occupied by a male
- Just under half (48.2%) of female employee jobs were part-time
- 79.6% of male employees work on a full-time basis.



**Fig 4.2: Employee Jobs Composition in Broad Industry Sectors, September 2015**



The latest estimates show:

[Download in excel](#)

- Large proportion of employee jobs in the manufacturing (75.6%) and construction (78.5%) sectors are occupied by male full-time employees
- Females occupy 58.3% of the 594,720 employee jobs within the services sector.
- The composition of female jobs in the services sector divided evenly between full-time and part-time workers.

### Changes over the year

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 11,520 full-time jobs and a decrease of 3,190 part-time jobs.
- full-time employee jobs accounted for 99.8% of the increase of 3,790 jobs in the manufacturing sector over the year.
- full-time employee jobs in the construction sector increased by 6,870 jobs whilst part-time jobs in the sector decreased by 3,320 jobs.
- full-time employee jobs accounted for 89.3% of the increase of 870 jobs in the services sector over the year.
- full-time employee jobs accounted for 74.2% of the increase of 110 jobs in the other industries sector over the year.

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

## 5 Notes to Editors

### Note 1 – Background

Estimates of the number of employee jobs are obtained from the QES. The QES covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. The QES collects 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 [Census of Employment](#) 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.

The QES is a voluntary survey of employers in Northern Ireland and results from it are collated into industry classes using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC07). As a result, there is no breach of confidentiality.

### Note 2 – Revisions Policy

It is normal practice for QES estimates to be revised. All quarters back to the latest published Census of Employment (currently Q4 2013 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.

A QES Revisions policy and tables including summary information on the size and direction of revisions for the QES are available from the NISRA ELMS website: [Revisions](#)

### Note 3 – 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, from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (DARD) 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](#)

#### **Note 4 – 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.

#### **Note 5 – 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 2010 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,B,D,J,K,L,N,O,Q or S and in the Other Industries sector.

#### **Note 6 – Census of Employment**

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 Census of Employment. Details of the Census of Employment results are available from NISRA ELMS Tel: (028) 9052 9474 or on the ELMS website [Census of Employment](#)

#### **Note 7 – 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](#)

### **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](#)**

You can also contact Economic & Labour Market Statistics Branch by:

#### **Writing to:**

Caroline Anderson  
NISRA,  
Economic & Labour Market Statistics Branch,  
Room 110, Netherleigh,  
Massey Avenue,  
Belfast  
BT4 2JP.

Tel: (028) 9052 9484

Fax: (028) 9052 9658

Textphone: (028) 9052 9304

Email: [statistics@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@dfpni.gov.uk)

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

# Annex Index of Tables

## Quarterly Employment Survey

- 5.1 NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted September 2015
- 5.2 NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted 1993 – 2015
- 5.3 NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted 1993 – 2015
- 5.4 NI Employee Jobs (Unadjusted) by Industry Section – September 2015
- 5.5 NI Employee Jobs by Industry Section (Unadjusted) September 2014, June 2015 and September 2015
- 5.6 Self Employment Jobs in NI by Broad Industry Group (June of Each Year)
- 5.7 Workforce Jobs 1983 - 2015
- 5.8 NI Employee Jobs by 2-digit SIC07 Class – September 2015
- 5.9 NI Public Sector Jobs (Unadjusted) – September 2015
- 5.10 NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted (Public / Private) 1993 - 2015
- 5.11 NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted (Public / Private) 1993 - 2015
- 5.12 NI Employee Jobs June 1971 – September 2015 - by SIC code
- 5.13 NI Employee Jobs June 1978 – September 2015 - by broad industry sector
- 5.14 NI Employee Jobs - Public Sector – June 1974 – September 2015