

Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey March 2016



Date: 15th June 2016
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 (NI) 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.

- The March 2016 seasonally adjusted employee jobs total was 735,010, an increase of 0.5% (or 3,870 jobs) from the December 2015 estimate and an increase of 1.7% (11,930 jobs) from the revised March 2015 estimate.
- Employee jobs in Northern Ireland (NI) have now returned to pre-downturn levels with the March 2016 estimate 0.3% greater than the previous series peak in June 2008.
- Employee jobs have continued to increase over the year in NI but estimates suggest the rate of growth is beginning to slow. In March 2016 the annual change in employee jobs was 11,930 jobs (1.7%) compared to 12,250 jobs (1.7%) in December 2015. The United Kingdom (UK) has grown at a slower rate than NI (1.5% increase over the year to December 2015 – latest available) with the rate of annual growth declining since September 2014.
- Over the quarter, seasonally adjusted employee jobs increased across all sectors; in the manufacturing sector by 1.2% (970 jobs), in the construction sector by 0.7% (210 jobs), in the services sector by 0.3% (2,070 jobs) and in the other industries sector by 2.8% (620 jobs).
- At March 2016 there were 204,820 seasonally adjusted public sector employee jobs in NI. This represents a decrease of 0.2% (-360 jobs) since December 2015 and a decrease over the year of 2.2% (-4,710 jobs).
- The March 2016 seasonally adjusted private sector employee jobs total was 529,290. This represents an increase of 0.6% (2,950 jobs) since December 2015 and an increase of 3.2% (16,330 jobs) over the year.
- Since March 2012 employee jobs have increased by 6.2% (42,660 jobs) with 82.4% 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

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.

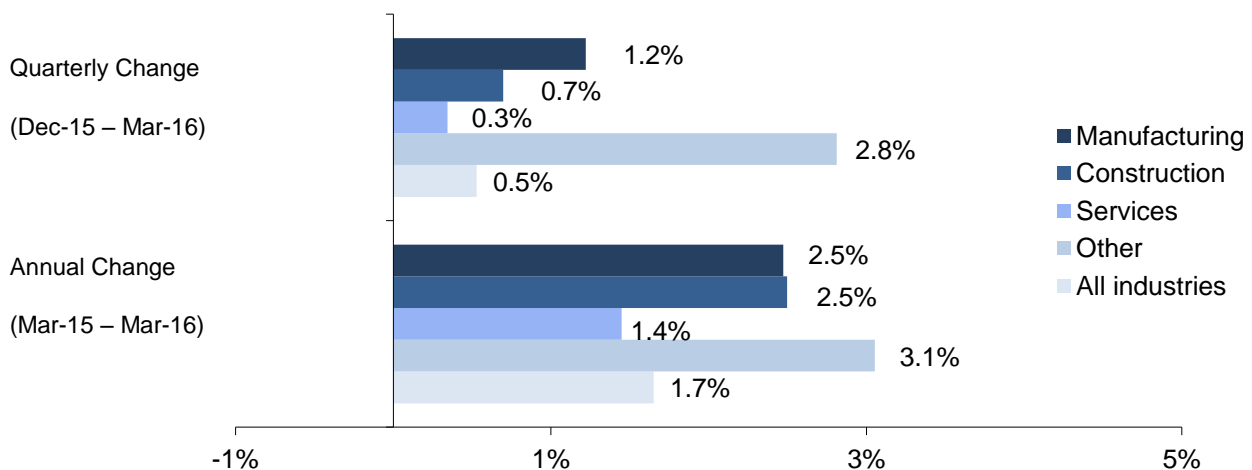
It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed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

Change in employee jobs

The seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimate for Northern Ireland (NI) at March 2016 was 735,010, this was:

- An increase of 0.5% (3,870 jobs) over the quarter from the December 2015 estimate of 731,150.
- an increase of 1.7% (11,930 jobs) over the year from the revised March 2015 estimate of 723,080.

Fig 1.1 Annual and quarterly changes in employee jobs at section level



[Download in excel](#)

Change over the quarter

Comparing seasonally adjusted March 2016 employee jobs to the December 2015 estimates showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 1.2% (970 jobs) to 80,640 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector by 0.7% (210 jobs) to 30,040 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector by 0.3% (2,070 jobs) to 601,620 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector by 2.8% (620 jobs) to 22,710 jobs.

Change over the year

Over the year, March 2015 to March 2016, the seasonally adjusted employee jobs figures showed increases across all sectors:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 2.5% (1,950 jobs) to 80,640 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector by 2.5% (730 jobs) to 30,040 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector by 1.4% (8,580 jobs) to 601,620 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector by 3.1% (670 jobs) to 22,710 jobs.

Comparing unadjusted data over the year, estimates show:

- (i) Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles (ii) computer programming, consultancy related activities and (iii) activities of head offices; management consultancy activities saw the greatest increases over the year accounting for 30% of all increases in employee jobs (all three sections are in the services sector).
- (i) Public administration and defence; compulsory social security, (ii) education and (iii) wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles saw the greatest decreases over the year accounting for 61% 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 four years

The first sign of recovery after the decline in employee jobs was in 2012. Over the period March 2012 to March 2016, the seasonally adjusted employee job figures increased by 6.2% (42,660 jobs). The increases were seen across three of the four industry sectors:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 8.5% (6,340 jobs).
- a decrease in the construction sector by 4.5% (-1,410 jobs).
- an increase in the services sector by 6.2% (35,130 jobs).
- an increase in the other industries sector by 12.9% (2,600 jobs).

Comparing unadjusted data over this four year period, estimates show

- (i) Residential care activities, (ii) employment activities, (iii) food and beverage service activities, (iv) office administrative, office support and other business support activities, (v) computer programming, consultancy and related activities and (vi) wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles accounted for 50% of all increases over the four year period.
- (i) Human health activities, (ii) public administration and defence; compulsory social security, and (iii) sports activities and amusement and recreation activities accounted for 69% of decreases over the four year period. All these drivers are in the services sector.
- 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 March 2016 show

- a decrease of 0.2% (-360 jobs) in the public sector over the quarter and a decrease of 2.2% (-4,710 jobs) over the year to 204,820 jobs.
- an increase of 0.6% (2,950 jobs) in the private sector over the quarter and an increase of 3.2% (16,330 jobs) over the year to 529,290 jobs.

Commentary

Northern Ireland employee jobs have now returned to pre-downturn levels with the March 2016 estimate 0.3% higher than the previous series peak in June 2008.

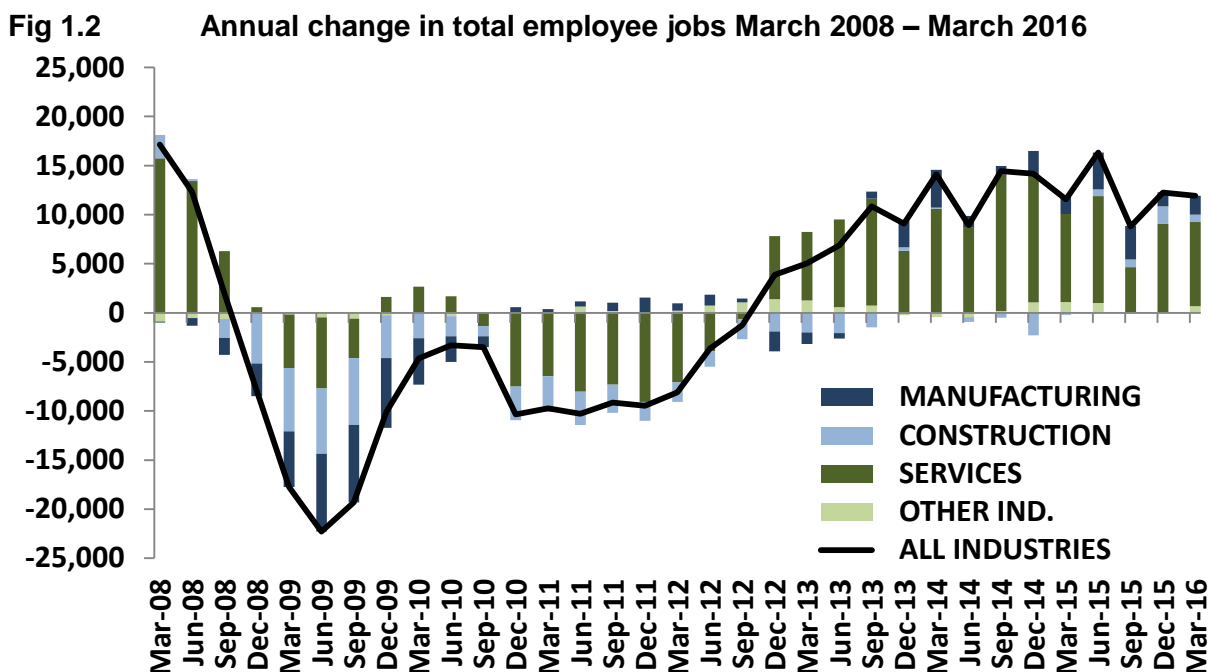
Over the quarter to March 2016, jobs growth was largest in the services sector, which accounts for 82% of all employee jobs, showing an increase of 2,070 jobs (0.3%). In relative terms the largest quarterly increase was experienced in the other industries sector, where employee jobs increased by 2.8% (620 jobs).

Over the year jobs growth was driven by the services sector which experienced the largest growth in real terms, increasing by 1.4% (8,580 jobs). Increases of 1,950 jobs, 730 jobs and 670 jobs were experienced in the manufacturing, construction and other industries sectors respectively.

Employee jobs have continued to increase over the year in NI but estimates suggest the rate of growth is beginning to slow. In March 2016 the annual change in employee jobs was 11,930 jobs (1.7%) compared to 12,250 jobs (1.7%) in December 2015. The United Kingdom (UK) has grown at a slower rate than NI (1.5% increase over the year to December 2015 – latest available) with the rate of annual growth declining since September 2014.

Fig 1.2 shows that NI employee jobs have increased year on year since 2012, with the services sector driving the increases. Employee jobs in NI have now returned to pre-downturn levels with the March 2016 estimate 0.3% higher than the 2008 peak. This however is not consistent across all sectors, with the manufacturing and construction sector job totals remaining below the 2008 peak (by 2,940 and 14,890 jobs respectively) and the services and other industries sectors now above the peak (by 17,570 and 2,360 jobs respectively).

Employee jobs in the UK are now 3.5% 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.



Please note: it is likely 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 14th September 2016

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

NISRA Labour Market Statistics

Quarterly Employment Survey – March 2016

Change on quarter



Manufacturing
+1.2% (970) to
80,640 jobs



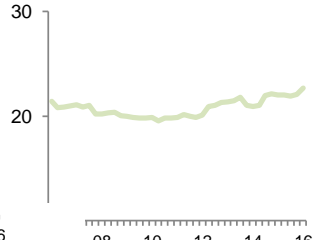
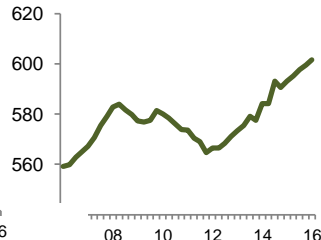
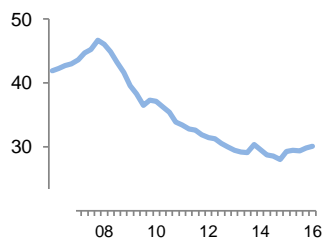
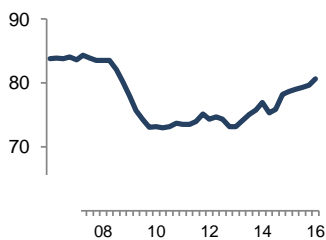
Construction
+0.7% (210) to
30,040 jobs



Services
+0.3% (2,070) to
601,620 jobs



Other
+2.8% (620) to
22,710 jobs



Change on year



Manufacturing
+2.5% (1,950) to
80,640 jobs



Construction
+2.5% (730 jobs)
to 30,040 jobs



Services
+1.4% (8,580 jobs)
to 601,620 jobs



Other
+3.1% (670) to
22,710 jobs

All data seasonally adjusted and subject to future revisions.
Data published on 15th June 2016 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](#) (PFG 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 [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 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 Table 5.14a 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

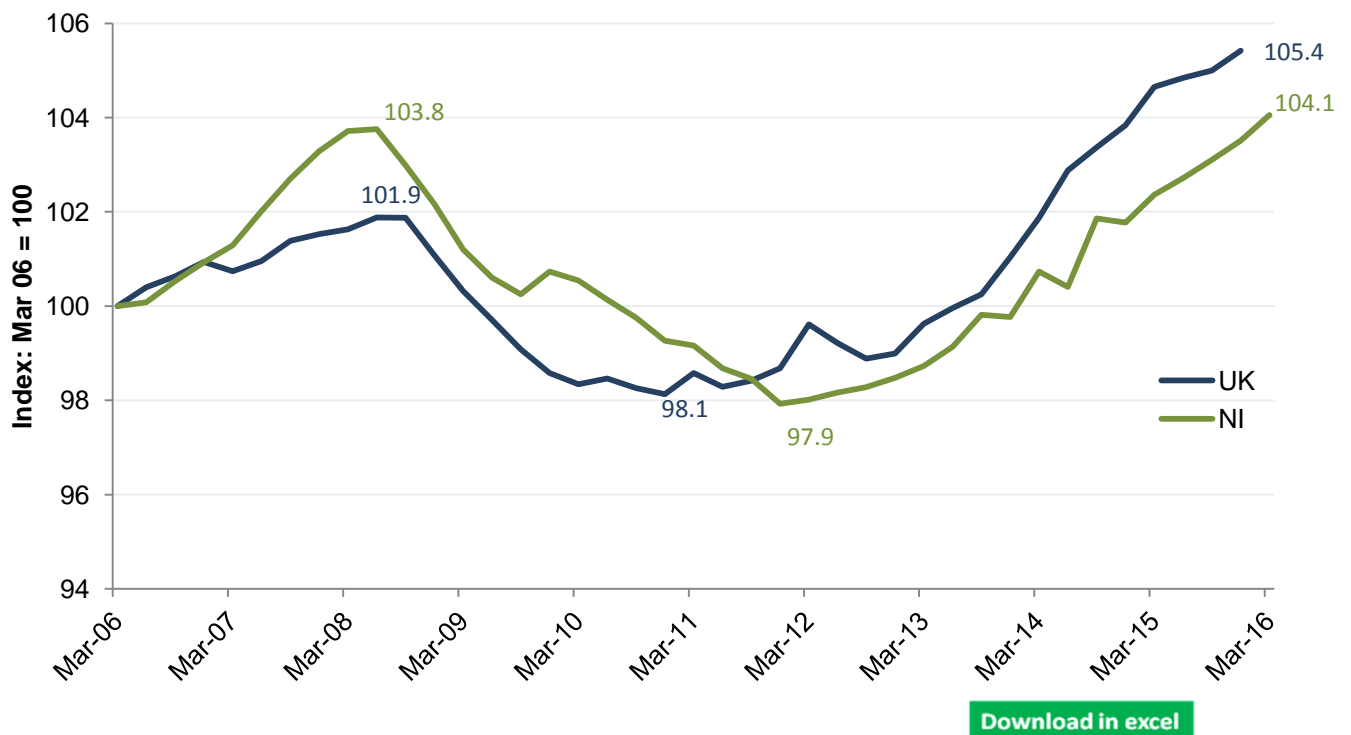
Employee: An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 years or over that is directly paid from a business's payroll for carrying out a full-time or part time job or being on a training scheme in Northern Ireland.

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

Key Findings:

- Employee jobs increased over the quarter and year to 735,010.

Figure 2.1: Index of employee jobs, March 2006 – March 2016



Figures are indexed to March 2006
The latest available UK figures relate to December 2015

Figure 2.1 shows the estimated seasonally adjusted employee jobs, indexed to allow comparison between NI and the UK. Both series peaked in June 2008 with the UK reaching its lowest point in December 2010 – one year before the NI low in December 2011. Both the UK and NI are now above their pre-downturn peaks.

Employee Jobs

The March 2016 seasonally adjusted employee jobs total in NI stands at 735,010, which was:

- an increase of 0.5% (3,870 jobs) from the December 2015 estimate of 731,150
- an increase of 1.7% (11,930 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 (970 jobs) to 80,640 jobs.
- an increase of 0.7% in the construction sector (210 jobs) to 30,040 jobs.
- an increase of 0.3% in the services sector (2,070 jobs) to 601,620 jobs.
- an increase of 2.8% in the other industries sector (620 jobs) to 22,710 jobs.

The seasonally adjusted annual change consisted of:

- an increase of 2.5% in the manufacturing sector (1,950 jobs)
- an increase of 2.5% in the construction sector (730 jobs)
- an increase of 1.4% in the services sector (8,580 jobs)
- an increase of 3.1% in the other industries sector (670 jobs).

Northern Ireland employee jobs annual change by industry Q1 2015 - Q1 2016

Change by broad industry sector (seasonally adjusted)

Manufacturing



+2.5% (1,950 jobs)
total jobs 80,640

Construction



+2.5% (730 jobs)
total jobs 30,040

Services



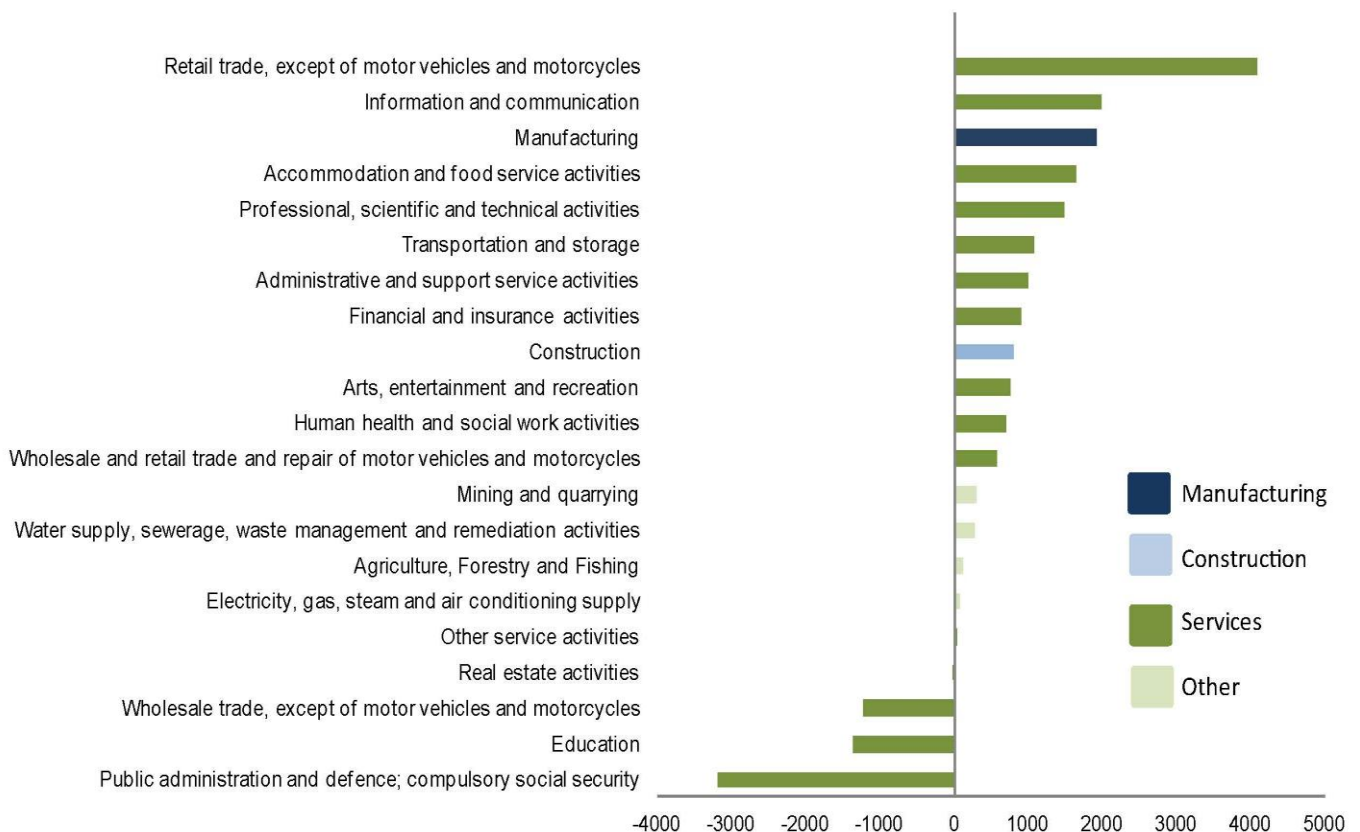
+1.4% (8,580 jobs)
total jobs 601,620

Other



+3.1% (670 jobs)
total jobs 22,710

Change by industry section (data not adjusted for seasonality)



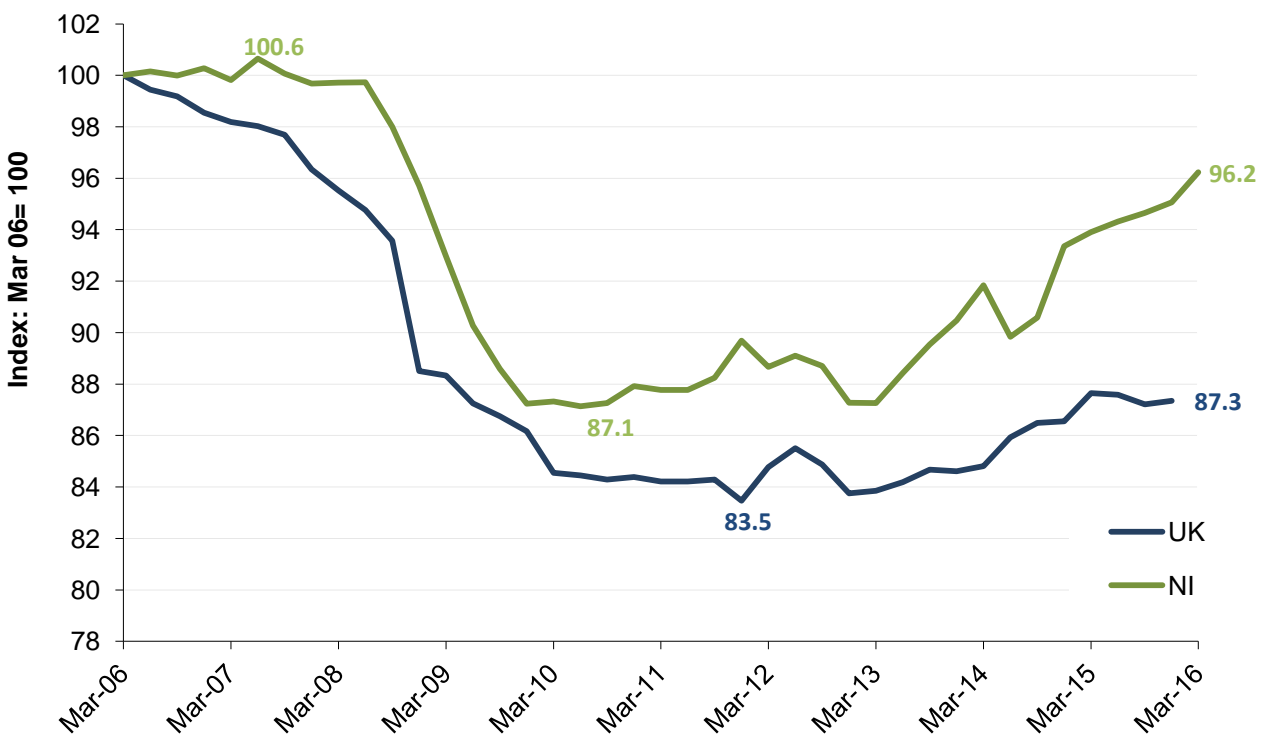
Manufacturing sector

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 10.9% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures show an increase of 1.2% in the manufacturing sector over the quarter to March 2016 and an increase of 2.5% over the year to 80,640 jobs.

Figure 2.2: Index of manufacturing employee jobs, March 2006 – March 2016



Figures are indexed to March 2006

The latest available UK figures relate to December 2015

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The manufacturing sector in NI experienced a period of sharp decline between June 2008 and December 2009 before reaching a series low in June 2010. The UK showed decreases in the number of employee jobs in the manufacturing sector from March 2006, with a series low occurring in December 2011. In June 2010 the NI manufacturing sector stood at 87.1% of the March 2006 figure and in December 2011 the UK figure stood at 83.5% of the March 2006 level.

Whilst the manufacturing sector in both NI and the UK have increased since their series low, NI remained 3.8% below the 2006 level in March 2016 while in December 2015 the UK remained 12.7% lower than in 2006.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the manufacturing sector increased by 1.2% (970 jobs) over the quarter and by 2.5% (1,950 jobs) over the year to 80,640 in March 2016.

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 March 2016 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 2.4% (1,910 jobs) in the manufacturing sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase were:

- an increase of 10.0% (700 jobs) in the manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment.
- an increase of 34.0% (680 jobs) in the manufacture of furniture.
- an increase of 32.2% (660 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 sector. The 3 largest decreases in the manufacturing sector over the year were:

- a decrease of 29.3% (-600 jobs) in the manufacture of textiles.
- a decrease of 7.5% (-460 jobs) in the manufacture of rubber and plastic products.
- a decrease of 9.1% (-400 jobs) in the manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products.

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](#)

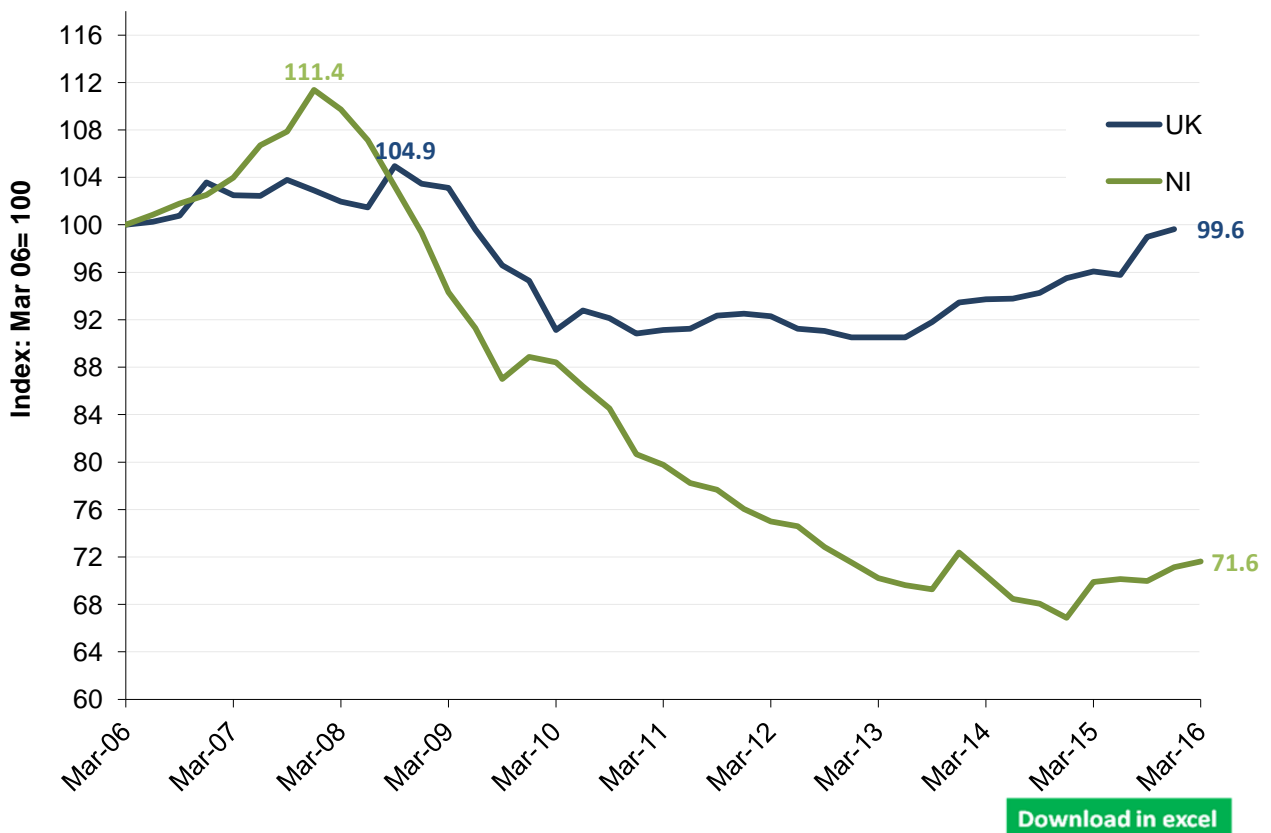
Construction sector

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 made up 4.1% of the total employee jobs figure.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 0.7% over the quarter to March 2016 and an increase of 2.5% over the year to 30,040 jobs.

Figure 2.3: Index of construction employee jobs, March 2006 – March 2016



Figures are indexed to March 2006

The latest available UK figures relate to December 2015

Over the past 10 years there has been an overall decrease in the construction sector in NI and the UK. Between 2006 and 2007 NI experienced an increase reaching the series peak in December 2007 of 11.4% higher than the March 2006 level. The UK also increased from March 2006 but reached its peak in September 2008 reaching a figure 4.9% higher than the March 2006 level.

Although the construction sector in both NI and the UK experienced an overall decrease since their series peaks both have shown increases in the past year. NI stood at 71.6% of the March 2006 figure in March 2016 and in December 2015 the UK stood at 99.6% of the March 2006 figure.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the construction sector increased by 0.7% (210 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 2.5% (730 jobs) over the year to 30,040.

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 4.0% (620 jobs) in specialised construction activities.
- an increase of 4.5% (290 jobs) in construction of buildings.
- a decrease of 1.5% (-120 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](#)

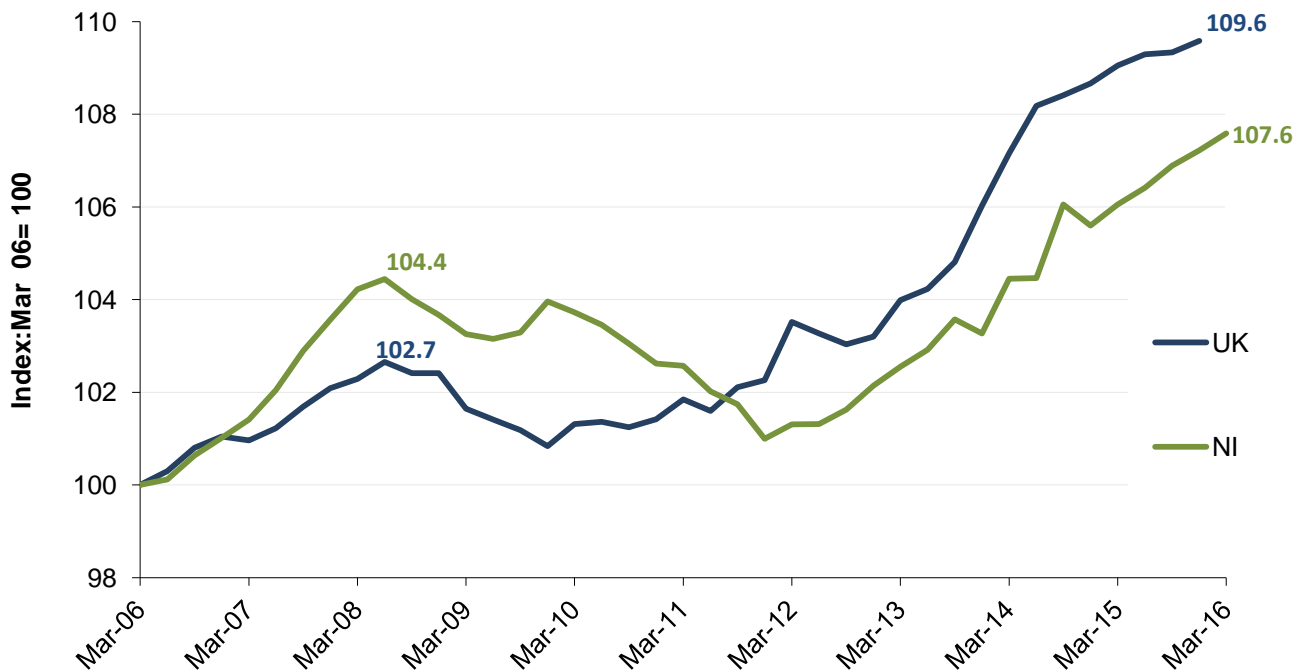
Services sector

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

Key Findings:

- The services sector accounted for 82% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 2,070 jobs in the services sector over the quarter to March 2016 and an increase of 1.4% (8,580 jobs) over the year to 601,620 jobs.

Figure 2.4: Index of services employee jobs, March 2006 – March 2016



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to March 2006

The latest available UK figures relate to December 2015

Over the last 10 years the services sector in NI and the UK both increased overall, with both series reaching their peak in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI services sector increased by 42,430 over the 10 year period.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the services sector increased by 0.3% (2,070 jobs) over the quarter and 1.4% (8,580 jobs) over the year to 601,620 in March 2016.

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 March 2016 the unadjusted figures show a 1.4% (8,250 jobs) increase in the services sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 4.7% (4,070 jobs) in retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- an increase of 13.5% (1,350 jobs) in computer programming, consultancy and related activities.
- an increase of 28.1% (1,020 jobs) in activities of head offices; management consultancy 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 5.9% (-3,180 jobs) in public administration and defence; compulsory social security.
- a decrease of 1.9% (-1,370 jobs) in education.
- a decrease of 4.7% (-1,220 jobs) in wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles

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

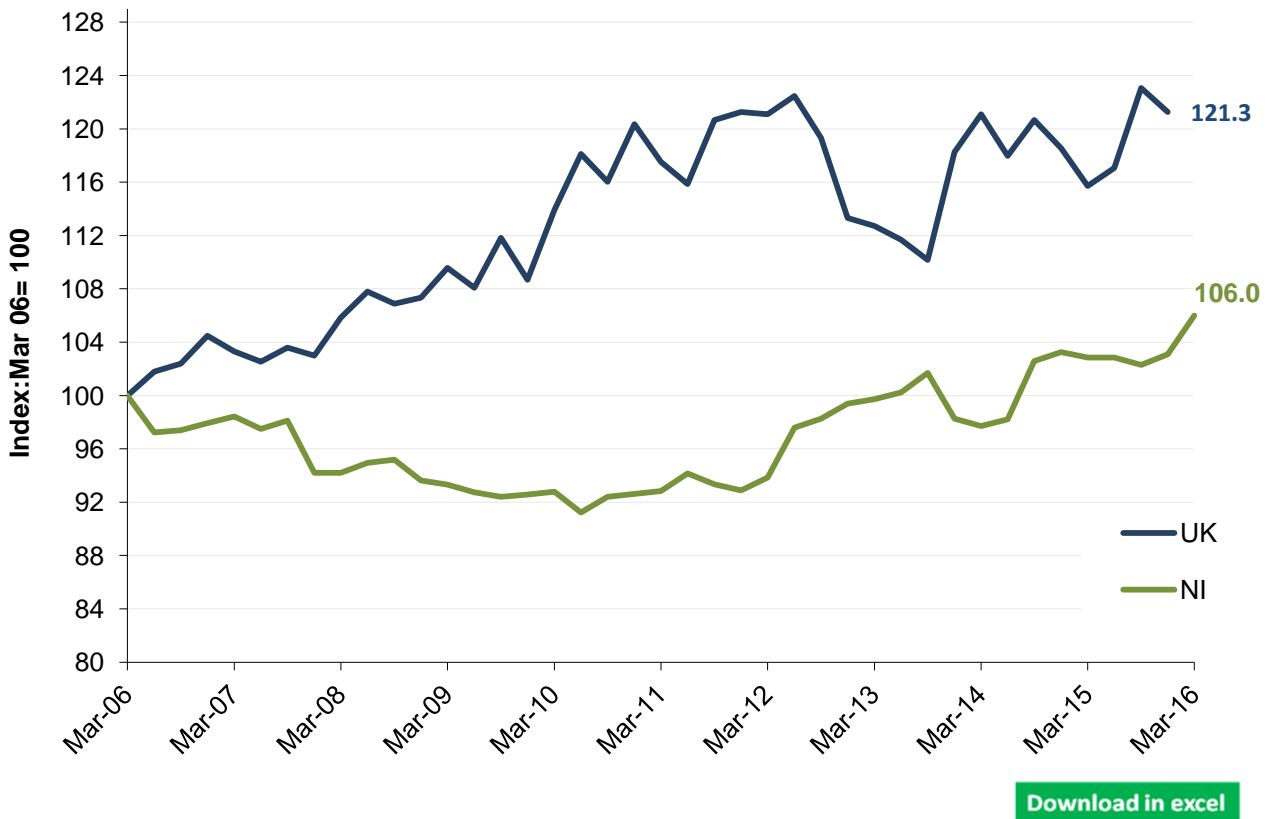
Other industries sector: the other industries sector contains businesses with activity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (industry sections A,B,D and E).

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 made up 3.1% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 620 jobs in the other industries sector over the quarter to March 2016 and an increase of 3.1% (670 jobs) over the year to 22,710 jobs.

Figure 2.5: Index of other industries sector jobs, March 2006 - March 2016



Figures are indexed to March 2006

The latest available UK figures relate to December 2016

Over the last 10 years the other industries sector in NI and the UK increased overall, with both series reaching their peak in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI other industries sector increased by 1,280 over the 10 year period.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the other industries sector increased by 2.8% (620 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 3.1% (670 jobs) over the year to 22,710 jobs.

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 March 2016 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 3.2% (700 jobs) in the other industries sector. The largest contributor was:

- an increase of 18.1% (280 jobs) in other mining and quarrying.

This increase was partially offset by:

- a decrease of 13.1% (-30 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](#)

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Public / private sector employee jobs

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

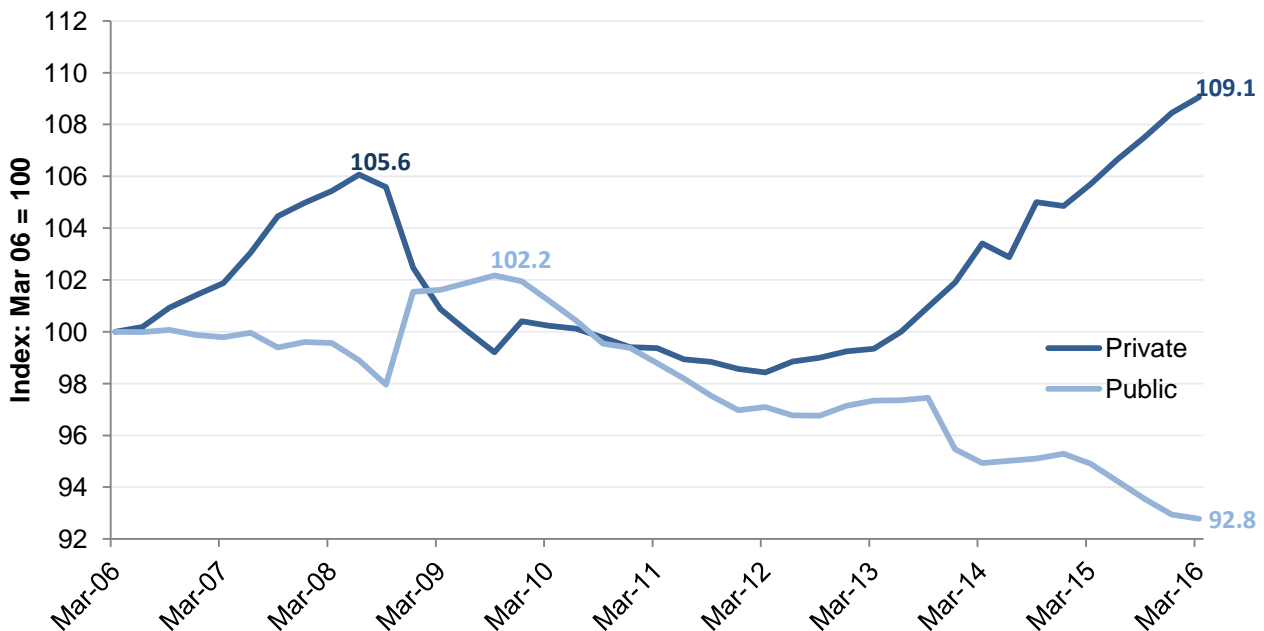
- NI central government
- Bodies under aegis of NI central government
- UK central government employees based in Northern Ireland
- Local government
- Public corporations

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 28% and the private sector made up 72% of all employee jobs.
- Employee jobs in the private sector increased over the quarter and year to 529,290 jobs.
- Employee jobs in the public sector decreased over the quarter and year to 204,820 jobs.

Figure 3.1: Index of NI private and public sector jobs, March 2006 – March 2016



Figures are indexed to March 2006

[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 March 2006 to March 2016 the number of employee jobs in the private sector increased by 9.1% (43,970 jobs) and the number of employee jobs in the public sector decreased

by 7.2% (-15,940 jobs). The most recent private sector figure stands at 2.8% higher than the series peak which occurred in June 2008. The current public sector figure stands at 9.2% lower than the series peak which occurred in September 2009.

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

- 204,820 employees in the NI public sector.
- 529,290 employees in the NI private sector.

Changes over the quarter

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

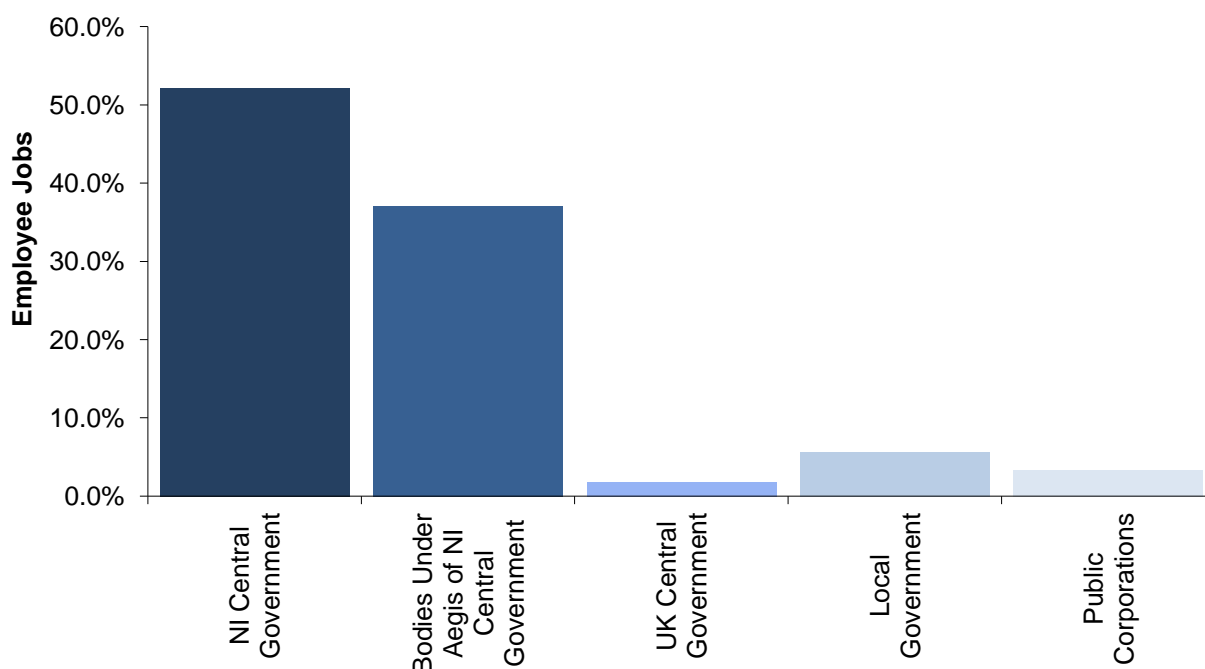
- a decrease of 0.2% (-360 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 0.6% (2,950 jobs) in the private sector.

Changes over the year

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- a decrease of 2.2% (-4,710 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 3.2% (16,330 jobs) in the private sector.

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 March 2016 was 205,399. This comprised:

- 107,196 jobs in NI central government (or 52.2% of all public sector employee jobs). Of this 23.0% comes from government departments (24,621 employee jobs).
- 76,081 jobs (or 37.0%) in NI public sector are bodies under the aegis of NI central government.
- 11,587 jobs in Local Government (or 5.6% of public sector employee jobs).
- 6,900 jobs in Public Corporations (or 3.4% of public sector employee jobs).
- 3,637 jobs in UK central Government (or 1.8% of public sector employee jobs).

The NI public sector unadjusted employee jobs estimate for March 2016 showed:

- an increase of 0.1% (194 jobs) over the quarter.
- a decrease of 2.3% (-4,748 jobs) over the year from March 2015.
- the largest decrease over the year (2,863 jobs) occurred in the NI Central Government section of the public sector with the majority of the decrease coming from NI Civil Service (-3,056 jobs).

4

Composition of employee jobs

Data in this section have not been adjusted for seasonality.

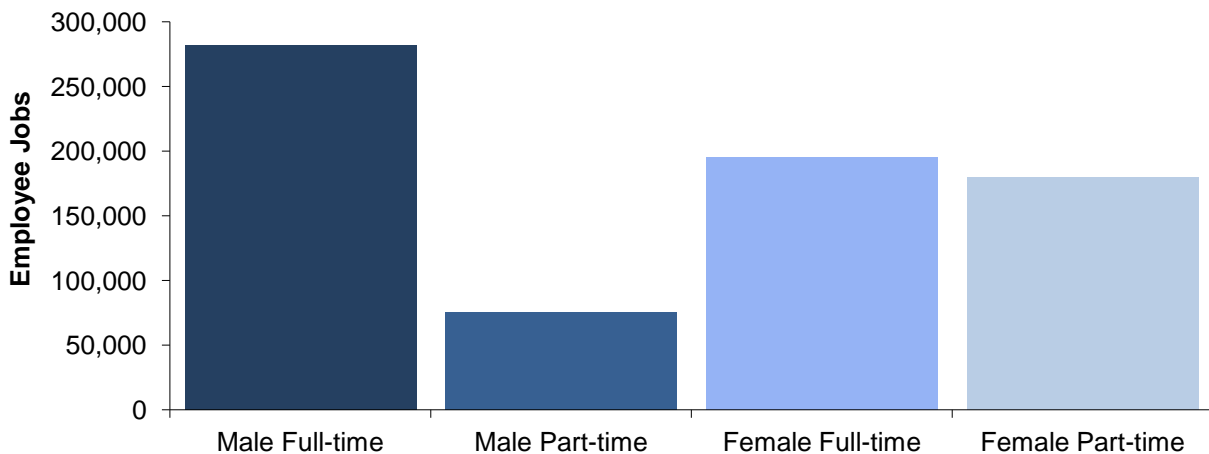
Part-time: Part-time means those who normally work 30 hours a week or less.

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

Key Findings

- **Over half of employees in NI were female.**
- **A higher proportion of female employees worked part-time than male employees.**

Fig 4.1: Composition of Employee Jobs, March 2016

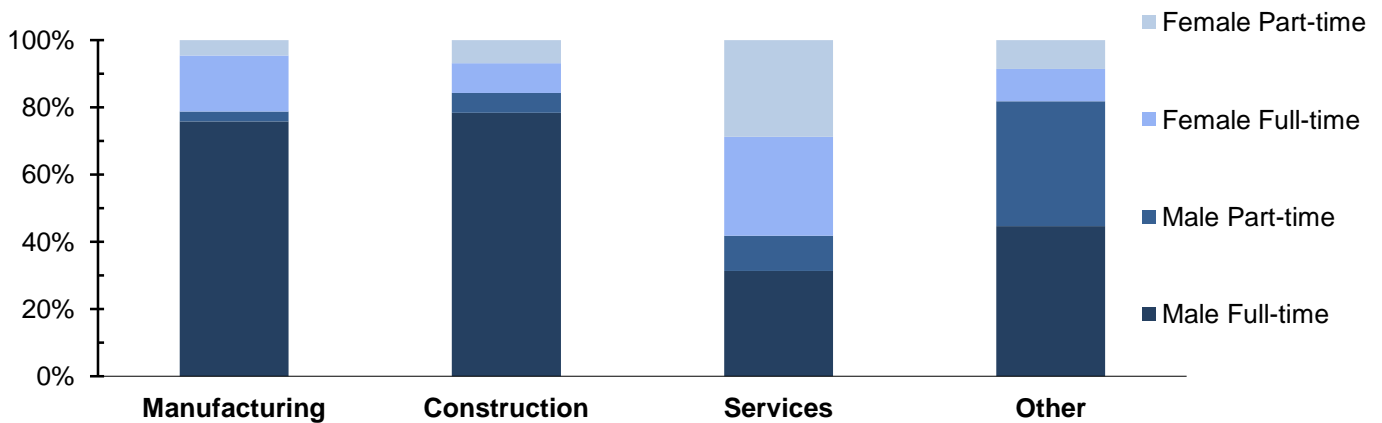


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Estimates show there were 731,280 employee jobs in NI at March 2016. Of these:

- 51.2% of employee jobs were occupied by a female and 48.8% were occupied by a male.
- Just under half (47.9%) of female employee jobs were part-time.
- 79.0% of male employees worked on a full-time basis.

Fig 4.2: Employee jobs composition in broad industry sectors, March 2016



The latest estimates showed that:

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- A large proportion of employee jobs in the manufacturing (75.8%) and construction (78.3%) sectors were occupied by male full-time employees.
- Females occupied 58.2% of the 598,300 employee jobs within the services sector.
- The composition of female jobs in the services sector is almost divided evenly between full-time (50.7%) and part-time (49.3%) workers.

Changes over the year

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 10,260 full-time jobs and an increase of 1,380 part-time jobs.
- full-time employee jobs in the manufacturing sector increased by 2,050 jobs whilst part-time jobs in the sector decreased by 140 jobs.
- full-time employee jobs accounted for 74.4% of the increase of 790 jobs in the construction sector over the year.
- full-time employee jobs accounted for 86.6% of the increase of 8,250 jobs in the services sector over the year.
- full-time employee jobs accounted for 70.3% of the increase of 700 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 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 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 [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.

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. 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](#)

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](#)

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 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.

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](#)

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](#)

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Quarterly Employment Survey

- 5.1 NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted March 2016
- 5.2 NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted 1993 – 2016
- 5.3 NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted 1993 – 2016
- 5.4 NI Employee Jobs (Unadjusted) by Industry Section – March 2016
- 5.5 NI Employee Jobs by Industry Section (Unadjusted) March 2015, December 2015 and March 2016
- 5.6 Self Employment Jobs in NI by Broad Industry Group (June of Each Year)
- 5.7 Workforce Jobs 1983 - 2016
- 5.8 NI Employee Jobs by 2-digit SIC07 Class – March 2016
- 5.9 NI Public Sector Jobs (Unadjusted) – March 2016
- 5.10 NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted (Public / Private) 1993 - 2016
- 5.11 NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted (Public / Private) 1993 - 2016
- 5.12 NI Employee Jobs June 1971 – March 2016 - by SIC code
- 5.13 NI Employee Jobs June 1978 – March 2016 - by broad industry sector
- 5.14 NI Employee Jobs - Public Sector – June 1974 – March 2016