

Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey

Date: 19th March 2019

Geographical Area: Northern Ireland

Theme: Labour Market

Frequency: Quarterly

Key Points

Employee jobs estimates are calculated from the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) aspect of the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). The QES has a sample size of approximately 6,000 and covers all employers with 25 or more employees, all public sector employers and a representative sample of smaller firms.

- The total number of seasonally adjusted employee jobs in December 2018 was estimated at a record high of 773,750. This was an increase of 5,410 jobs over the quarter and 14,350 jobs over the year. The annual change in employee jobs is statistically significant i.e. the recorded change exceeded the variability expected from a survey of this size and was likely to reflect real change. Increases were experienced in all sectors over the year, with the services sector accounting for the majority of the growth.
- The number of employee jobs in the services sector (628,730 jobs) reached the highest level on record in December 2018.
- Private sector jobs increased over the quarter (0.7% or 4,160 jobs) and the year (2.3% or 12,860 jobs) to their highest level (565,480) on record.
- Public sector jobs increased over the quarter (0.1% or 180 jobs) and increased over the year (0.6% or 1,260 jobs). There are now 20,240 fewer public sector jobs than the series peak in September 2009 (-8.9%).
- In the last five years, employee jobs have increased by 9.8% (68,820 jobs) and by 11.9% (82,500 jobs) from the low in March 2012.
- The annualised growth rate of 2.1% between 2017 and 2018 is at a similar level to the growth rate in employee jobs between 2016 and 2017 but above growth rates seen between 2014 and 2016.

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. Seasonally adjusted series public / private

- NI public and private sector jobs

4. Composition of employee jobs

- Full-time/part-time employees

5. Further Information

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NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics were designated as National Statistics in August 2010 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

Since the assessment by the UK Statistics Authority, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Quantified the level of uncertainty around estimates by providing confidence intervals for headline estimates;
- Removed pre-release access to enhance trustworthiness and also brought the publication date forward as a result;
- Consulted users at Labour Market User Groups and streamlined outputs in line with the UK series (latest consultation results can be found [here](#));
- Reduced [business burden](#) by offering the option of online data returns.

1 Summary of Employee Jobs

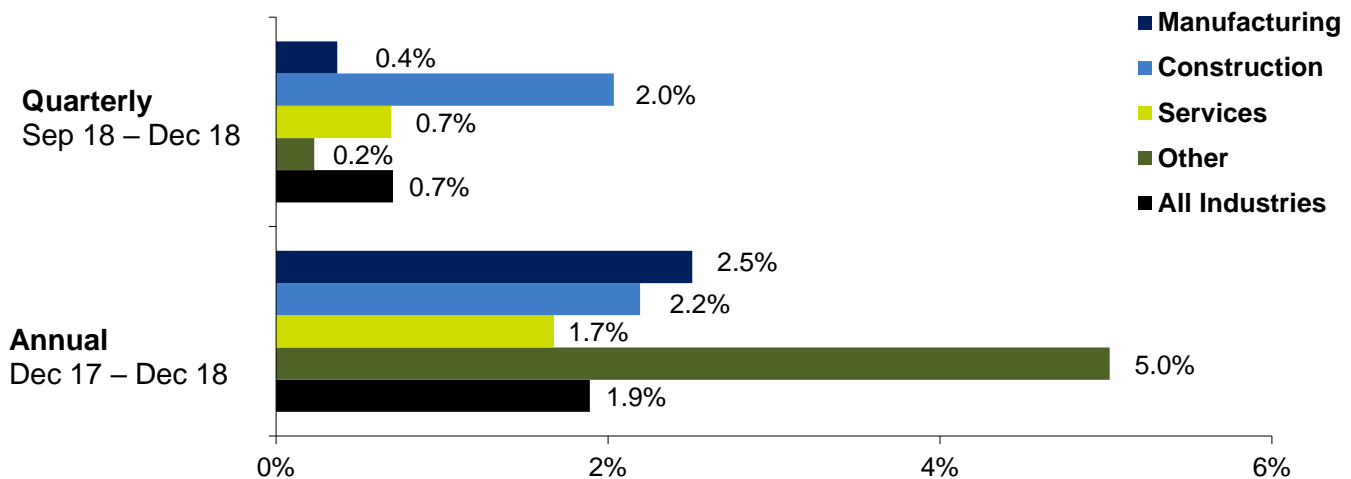
Updated March 2019

Change in employee jobs

The seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimate for Northern Ireland (NI) at December 2018 was 773,750 (+/-7,330¹). This was:

- an increase of 0.7% (5,410 jobs) over the quarter from the revised September 2018 estimate of 768,340.
- an increase of 1.9% (14,350 jobs) over the year from the revised December 2017 estimate of 759,400.
- The annual increase in employee jobs was statistically significant.

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



Change over the quarter

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Comparing seasonally adjusted December 2018 employee jobs to the revised September 2018 estimates showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector of 0.4% (320 jobs) to 86,410 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector of 2.0% (700 jobs) to 35,020 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector of 0.7% (4,340 jobs) to 628,730 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector of 0.2% (50 jobs) to 23,600 jobs.

Change over the year

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

- an increase in the manufacturing sector of 2.5% (2,110 jobs) to 86,410 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector of 2.2% (760 jobs) to 35,020 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector of 1.7% (10,360 jobs) to 628,730 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector of 5.0% (1,130 jobs) to 23,600 jobs.

¹ Represents 95% confidence interval around estimate

Comparing unadjusted data over the year, estimates showed:

- (i) Human health activities; (ii) food and beverage service activities and (iii) social work activities without accommodation saw the greatest increases over the year accounting for 28.2% of all increases in employee jobs.
- (i) Office administrative, office support and other business support activities; (ii) manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials and (iii) manufacture of rubber and plastic products saw the greatest decreases over the year accounting for 57.3% of all decreases.
- Despite the decreases, there was a net increase of 14,490 in employee jobs.

Annualised Change

Comparing the seasonally adjusted employee jobs data for Quarter 1 2017 – Quarter 4 2017 to Quarter 1 2018 – Quarter 4 2018 showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector of 3.4%.
- an increase in the construction sector of 2.8%.
- an increase in the services sector of 1.9%.
- an increase in the other industries sector of 3.8%.

Public / private sector changes

Seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimates for the public and private sector at December 2018 showed:

- an increase of 0.1% (180 jobs) in the public sector over the quarter and an increase of 0.6% (1,260 jobs) over the year to 207,950 jobs.
- an increase of 0.7% (4,160 jobs) in the private sector over the quarter and an increase of 2.3% (12,860 jobs) over the year to 565,480 jobs.

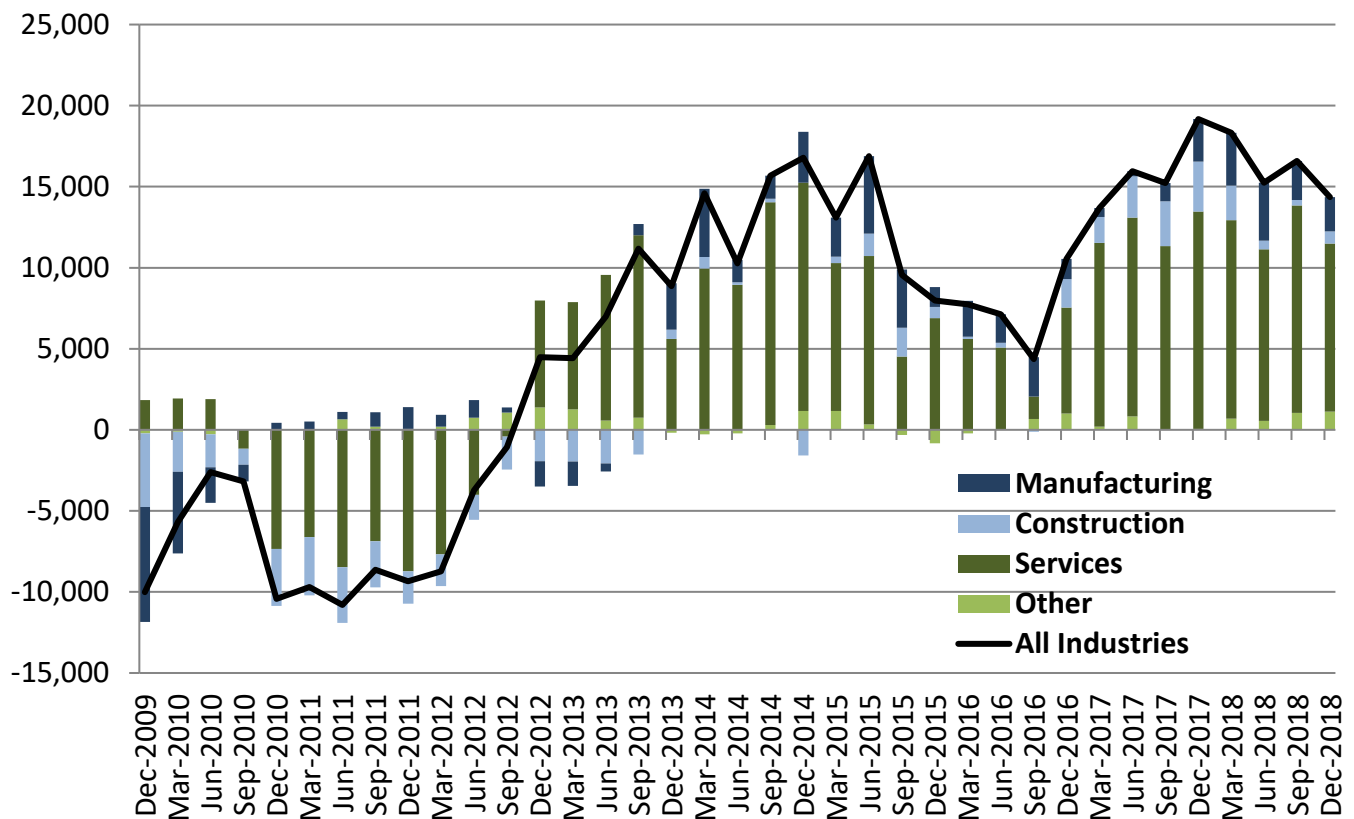
Commentary

Northern Ireland (NI) employee jobs increased over the quarter and the year to a high of 773,750 in December 2018 (in the seasonally adjusted series). The number of jobs in NI has shown quarter on quarter growth since December 2015.

Increases were seen in all broad industry sectors over the quarter and the year. The services sector, which accounts for 81% of jobs in NI, accounted for the majority of the annual growth (72%). This is consistent with trends since recovery began in 2012. Within the services sector the greatest increases over the year were within human health activities, food and beverage service activities, and social work activities without accommodation.

Over the quarter, Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles (accounting for 95,190 jobs) saw the largest increase in employee jobs of all industry sub-sections (at 2-digit SIC level). At 5.5% (approximately 5,000 jobs), the quarterly growth was similar to that in December 2016 (5.9%), but lower than that in December 2017 (8.8%).

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



[Download in excel](#)

Private sector jobs continued to grow over the quarter and year and are now 10.4% above the pre-downturn peak in June 2008. Public sector jobs showed an increase over the quarter and year to December 2018. There are now approximately 20,240 fewer public sector jobs than the series peak in September 2009.

The trend of increasing numbers of jobs in the NI economy is consistent with the UK experience, which is also reporting increases over the quarter and year to a record high (30.5 million).

NISRA Labour Market Statistics

Quarterly Employment Survey – December 2018

Total employee jobs: 773,750



Change on quarter



Change on year



Context

This bulletin presents data from the Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), which is conducted by the Economic & Labour Market Statistics (ELMS) Branch of the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA).

The QES provides short-term employee jobs estimates for Northern Ireland and covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. As it is a sample survey, estimates are subject to sampling variability. The 95% confidence interval bounds for the headline employee jobs estimate is +/- 0.5%.

The QES excludes the self-employed, HM Armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and Training for Success trainees without a contract of employment (non-employed status). The survey collects information on the number of males/females in full-time and part-time employment by business activity and the results are collated into industry classes using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC07). The number of jobs are counted rather than the number of persons with jobs. For example, a person holding both a full-time job and part-time job, or someone with two part-time jobs, will be counted twice.

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

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

QES employee jobs are included in the [DfE Economic Commentary](#) which provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland economy, setting it in context with the UK and Republic of Ireland. The most up-to-date official statistics on the economy and labour market are available on the [Economic Overview section](#) of the website.

Revisions

Results are provisional and subject to revision as more up-to-date data becomes available (e.g. through late returns). Figures can also change as a result of the seasonal adjustment process, methodological changes or changes to classifications.

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

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

Alternative measures of employment

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

Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)

The BRES is a statutory business survey based on a larger sample than QES and alternates between sample and census coverage biennially. Quarter 3 of the QES is taken at the same survey date as BRES. Breakdowns of employee jobs by geographical location and industry are available from the BRES.

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 DAERA website: [Farm Census](#)

Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Employee Bulletin

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

Further information on NICS employee jobs can be found in the NICS Employee Bulletin. This bulletin provides details on NICS staff numbers on a quarterly basis and provides comparisons with the previous quarter, the wider public sector, as well as a comparison with the previous year. The survey dates for the NICS Employee Bulletin differ from the QES survey dates. As such the figures for the NICS employee jobs may differ.

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

2 NI Employee Jobs

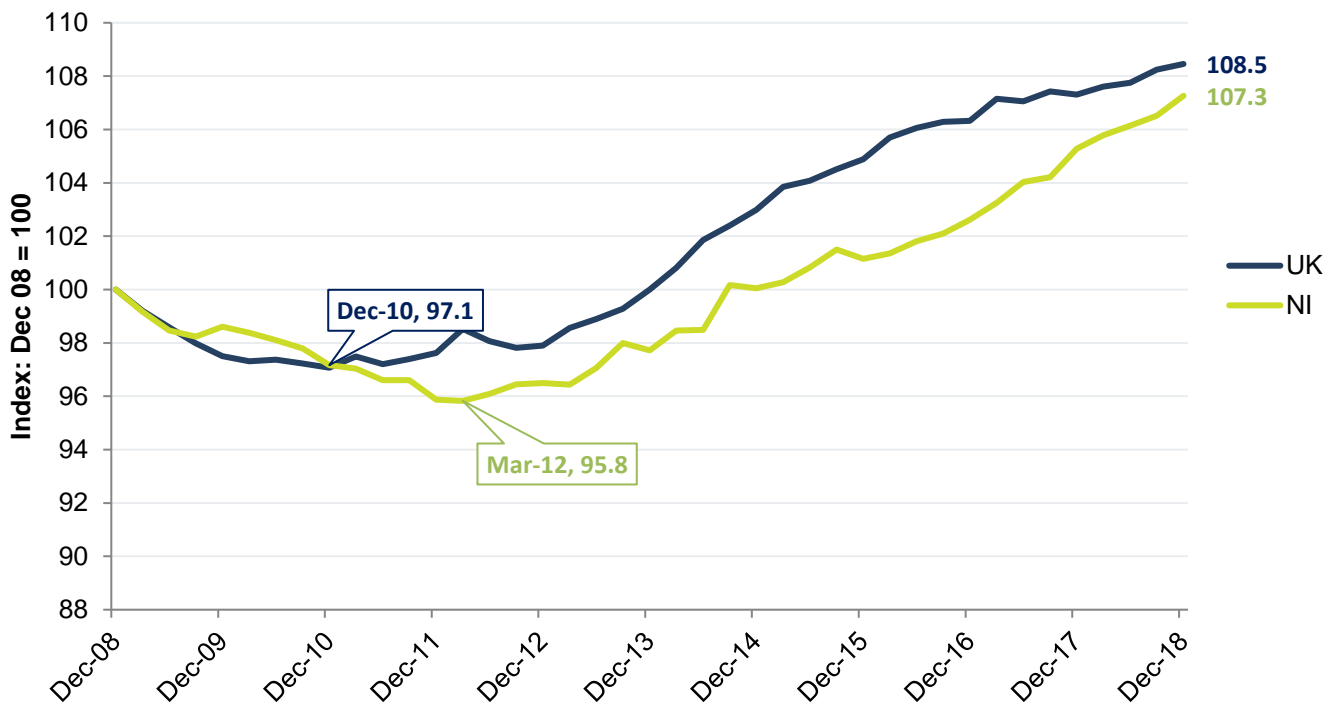
Employee: An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 years or over that is directly paid from a business's payroll for carrying out a full-time or part-time job or being on a training scheme in Northern Ireland.

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

Key Findings:

- Employee jobs increased over the quarter by 0.7% (5,410 jobs) and over the year by 1.9% (14,350 jobs) to a series high of 773,750.

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



Figures are indexed to December 2008

[Download in excel](#)

Figure 2.1 shows the estimated seasonally adjusted employee jobs, indexed to allow comparison between NI and the UK. For NI the pre-downturn peak was in June 2008 (not on chart range) and the UK in September 2008 (not on chart range). The UK reached its lowest point in December 2010, more than a year before the NI low in March 2012. Both NI and the UK have surpassed their pre-downturn peaks; NI jobs are now 5.6% above their June 2008 level while UK jobs are 7.6% above their September 2008 level.

Employee Jobs

The December 2018 seasonally adjusted employee jobs total in NI stands at 773,750 which was:

- an increase of 0.7% (5,410 jobs) from the revised September 2018 estimate of 768,340.
- an increase of 1.9% (14,350 jobs) over the year from the revised December 2017 estimate of 759,400.
- The annual increase in employee jobs was statistically significant.

Employee jobs by broad industry sector

The seasonally adjusted quarterly change consisted of:

- an increase of 0.4% in the manufacturing sector (320 jobs) to 86,410 jobs
- an increase of 2.0% in the construction sector (700 jobs) to 35,020 jobs
- an increase of 0.7% in the services sector (4,340 jobs) to 628,730 jobs
- an increase of 0.2% in the other industries sector (50 jobs) to 23,600 jobs

The seasonally adjusted annual change consisted of:

- an increase of 2.5% in the manufacturing sector (2,110 jobs) to 86,410 jobs
- an increase of 2.2% in the construction sector (760 jobs) to 35,020 jobs
- an increase of 1.7% in the services sector (10,360 jobs) to 628,730 jobs
- an increase of 5.0% in the other industries sector (1,130 jobs) to 23,600 jobs.

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

Northern Ireland employee jobs annual change by industry Q4 2017 - Q4 2018

Change by broad industry sector (seasonally adjusted)

Manufacturing



+2.5% (2,110 jobs)
total jobs 86,410

Construction



+2.2% (760 jobs)
total jobs 35,020

Services



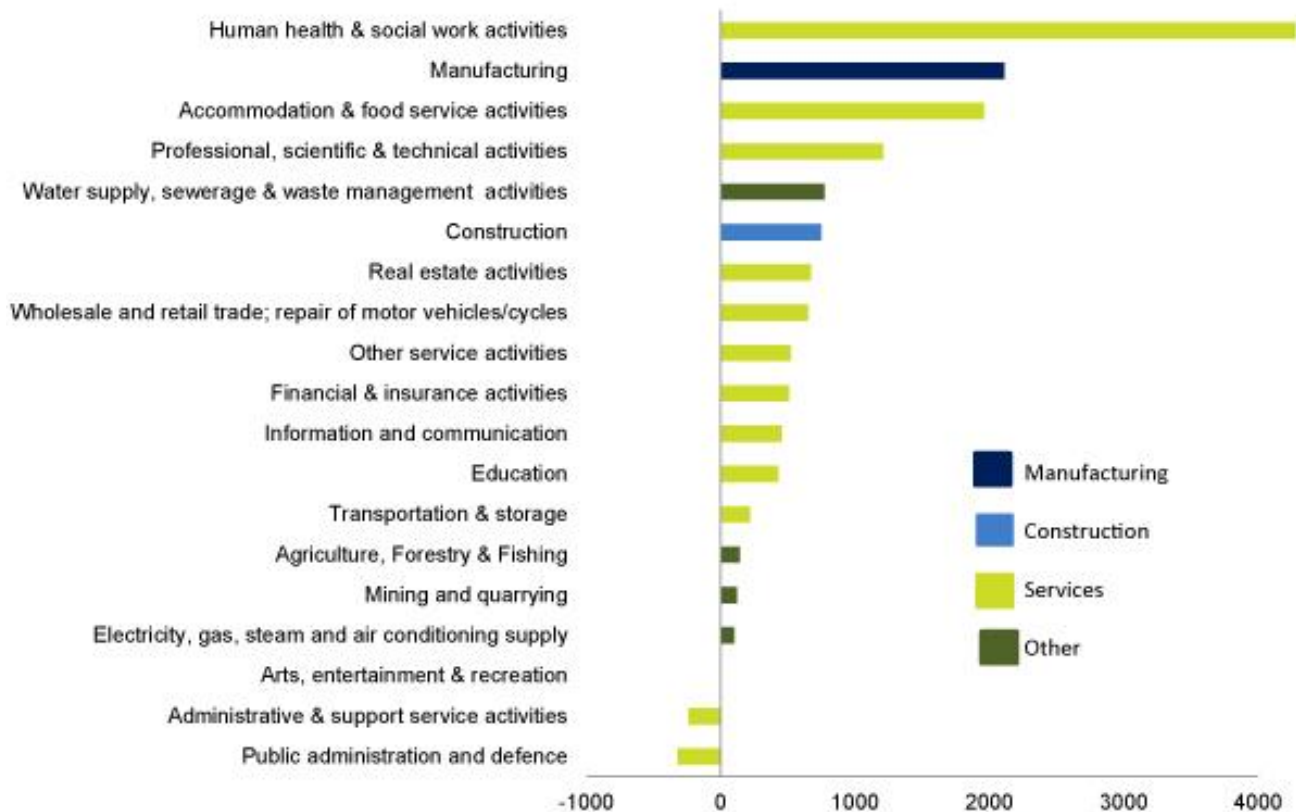
+1.7% (10,360 jobs)
total jobs 628,730

Other



+5.0% (1,130 jobs)
total jobs 23,600

Change by industry section (seasonally adjusted)



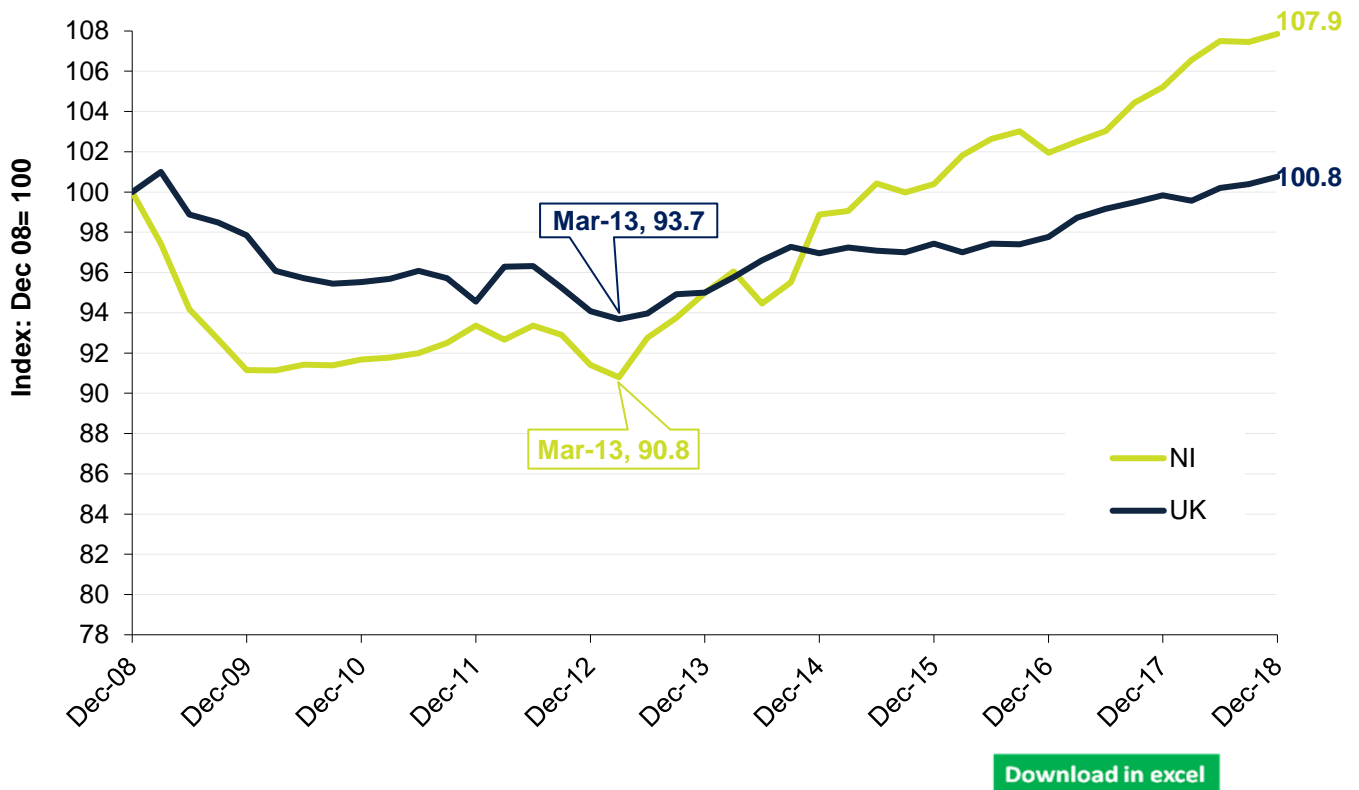
Manufacturing sector

Manufacturing sector: the manufacturing sector contains businesses which produce merchandise for use or sale. It also contains businesses with activity of printing and reproduction of recorded media and businesses that repair and install machinery and equipment.

Key Findings:

- The number of employee jobs in the manufacturing sector was at a series high in December 2018 of 86,410 jobs.
- The manufacturing sector accounted for 11.2% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures show an increase of 2.5% in the manufacturing sector over the year to December 2018 to 86,410 jobs.

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



Figures are indexed to December 2008

The manufacturing sector in NI experienced a period of sharp decline between June 2008 and December 2009 whilst the UK showed a sharp decrease in the number of employee jobs in the manufacturing sector between March 2009 and September 2010. Both NI and the UK reached a series low in March 2013, and NI jobs are now 18.8% above this level.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the manufacturing sector increased by 0.4% (320 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 2.5% (2,110 jobs) over the year to 86,410.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC manufacturing data that have not been adjusted for seasonality. Please note that estimates at 2 digit SIC can fluctuate due to sampling variability and changes to industrial classification.

Changes over the year

Over the year to December 2018 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 2.5% (2,100 jobs) in the manufacturing sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase were:

- an increase of 46.3% (760 jobs) in the manufacture of textiles
- an increase of 9.0% (570 jobs) in the manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.
- an increase of 4.7% (390 jobs) in the manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment

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

- a decrease of 17.7% (-510 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 6.5% (-380 jobs) in the manufacture of rubber and plastic products
- a decrease of 4.2% (-130 jobs) in the manufacture of electrical equipment

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

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

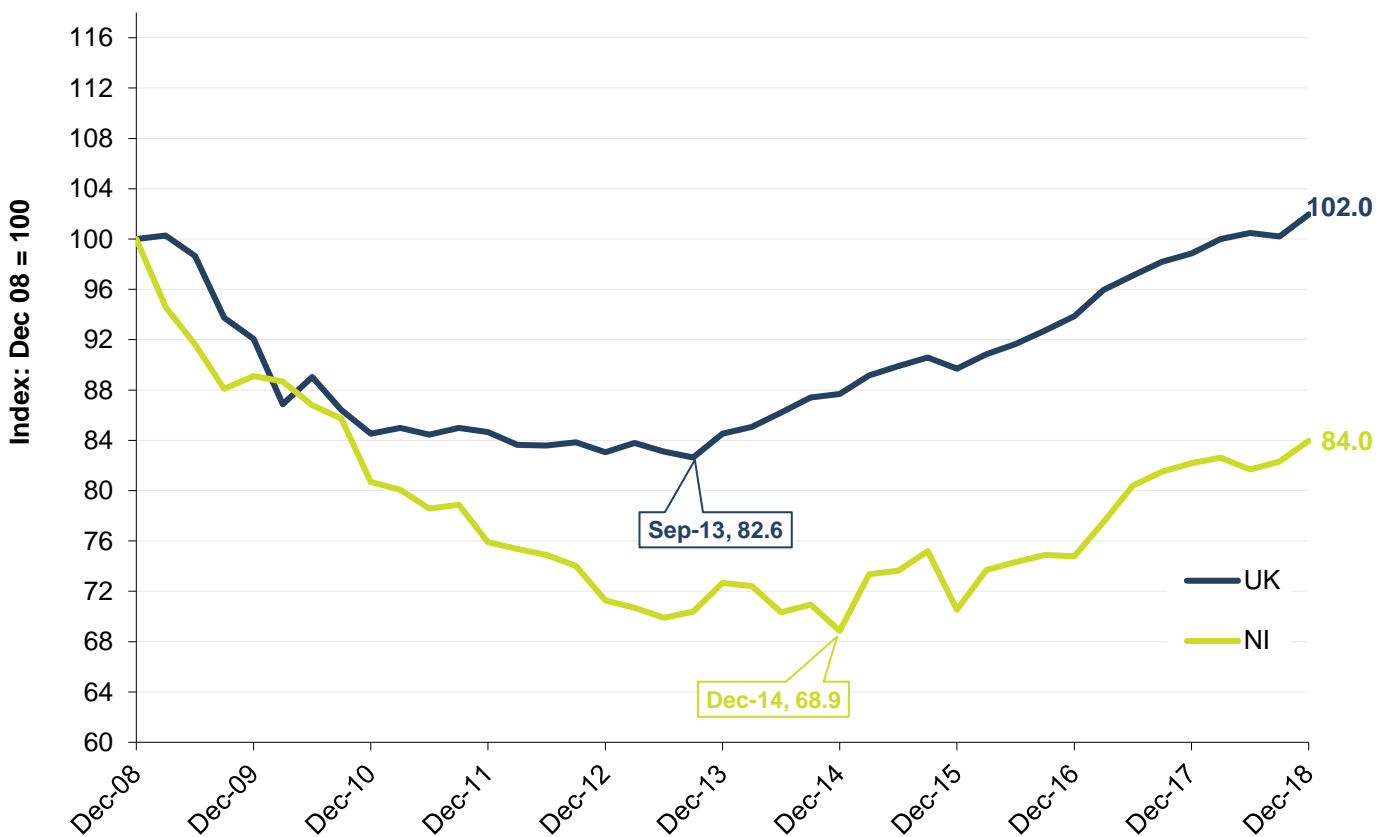
Construction sector

Construction sector: construction is the process of creating and building infrastructure or a facility. It differs from manufacturing in that manufacturing typically involves mass production of similar items without a designated purchaser and construction is typically done on location for a known client. The construction sector consists of businesses with activity in the construction of buildings, civil engineering or specialised construction activities.

Key Findings:

- The construction sector made up 4.5% of the total employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 2.0% over the quarter to December 2018 and an increase of 2.2% over the year to 35,020 jobs.

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



Figures are indexed to December 2008

[Download in excel](#)

The most recent low in the construction sector was in December 2014 (28,710 jobs). Most recent estimates show a 22.0% improvement on this level; however the number of employee jobs in the construction sector is currently 25.2% lower than the series peak in December 2007 (not on chart range).

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the construction sector increased by 2.0% (700 jobs) over the quarter and by 2.2% (760 jobs) over the year to 35,020.

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 December 2018 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 2.2% (750 jobs) in the construction sector.

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 8.0% (590 jobs) in construction of buildings
- an increase of 0.7% (140 jobs) in specialised construction activities
- an increase of 0.2% (20 jobs) in civil engineering

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

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

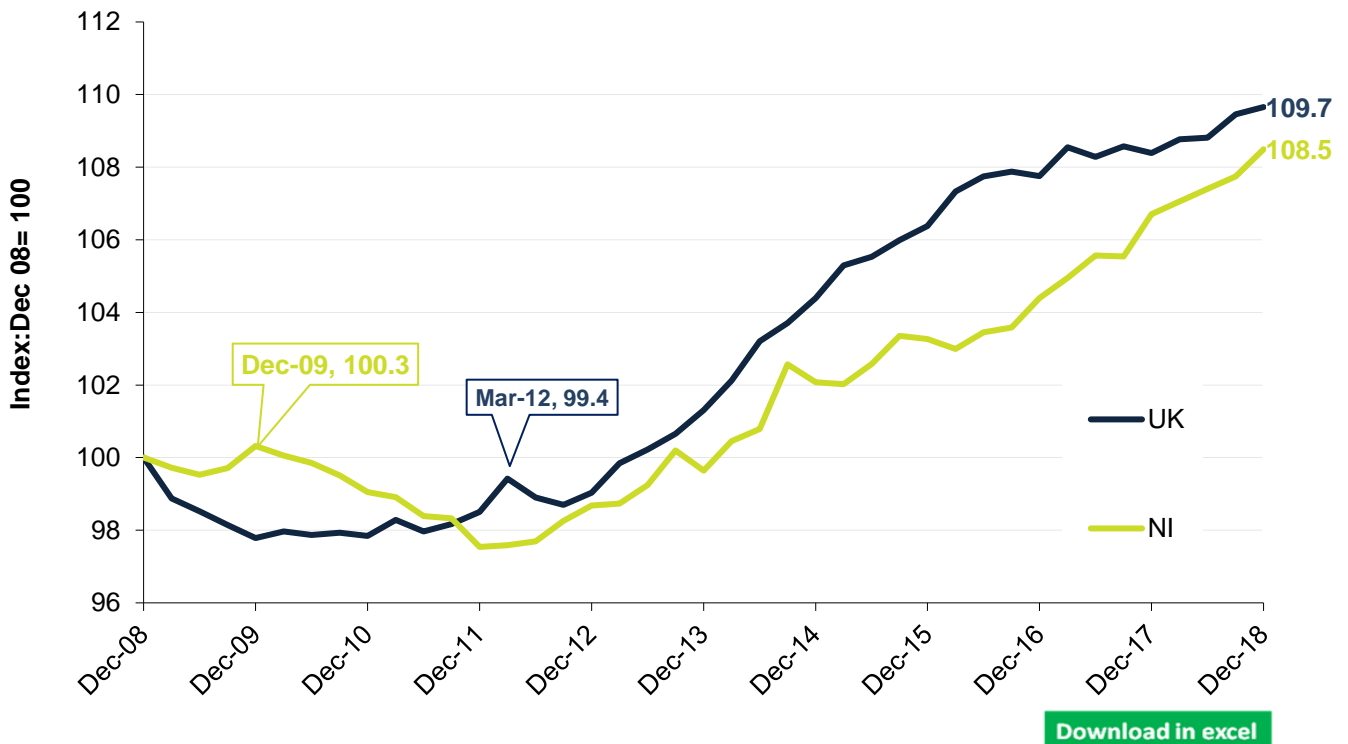
Services sector

The services sector contains businesses which sell services and skills; and includes education, public administration and health and social work activities. A full list of the industry sections G-S which are included in the services sector can be found in table 5.5 within the supplementary tables on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Key Findings:

- The services sector recorded a peak number of employee jobs during December 2018.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 0.7% over the quarter to December 2018 and an increase of 1.7% over the year to 628,730 service sector jobs.
- The services sector accounted for the majority (72.2%) of growth over the year and has been driving the recovery since the series low in employee jobs in March 2012.
- The services sector accounted for 81.3% of all employee jobs.

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



Figures are indexed to December 2008

Over the last 5 years the services sector in both NI and the UK increased overall, with NI and UK both recording a peak level in employee jobs in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI services sector increased by 51,280 over the last 5 years.

When considering the pre-downturn period, employee jobs in the services sector reached a peak in June 2008 (not on chart range); declining to a series low in December 2011. The decline of 3.3% during this period is notably smaller than the declines experienced in the manufacturing or construction sectors during the downturn. There has been an increase of 11.2% in employee jobs in the services sector since the low in December 2011.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the services sector increased by 0.7% (4,340 jobs) over the quarter and by 1.7% (10,360 jobs) over the year to 628,730 in December 2018.

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

Changes over the year

Over the year to December 2018 the unadjusted figures reported an increase of 1.7% (10,520 jobs) in the services sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 3.2% (2,160 jobs) in human health activities
- an increase of 4.1% (1,560 jobs) in food and beverage service activities
- an increase of 4.5% (1,400 jobs) in social work activities without accommodation

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

- a decrease of 9.1% (-1220 jobs) in office administrative, office support and other business support activities.
- a decrease of 0.7% (-330 jobs) in public administration and defence; compulsory social security
- a decrease of 9.6% (-180 jobs) in motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities

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

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

Other industries sector

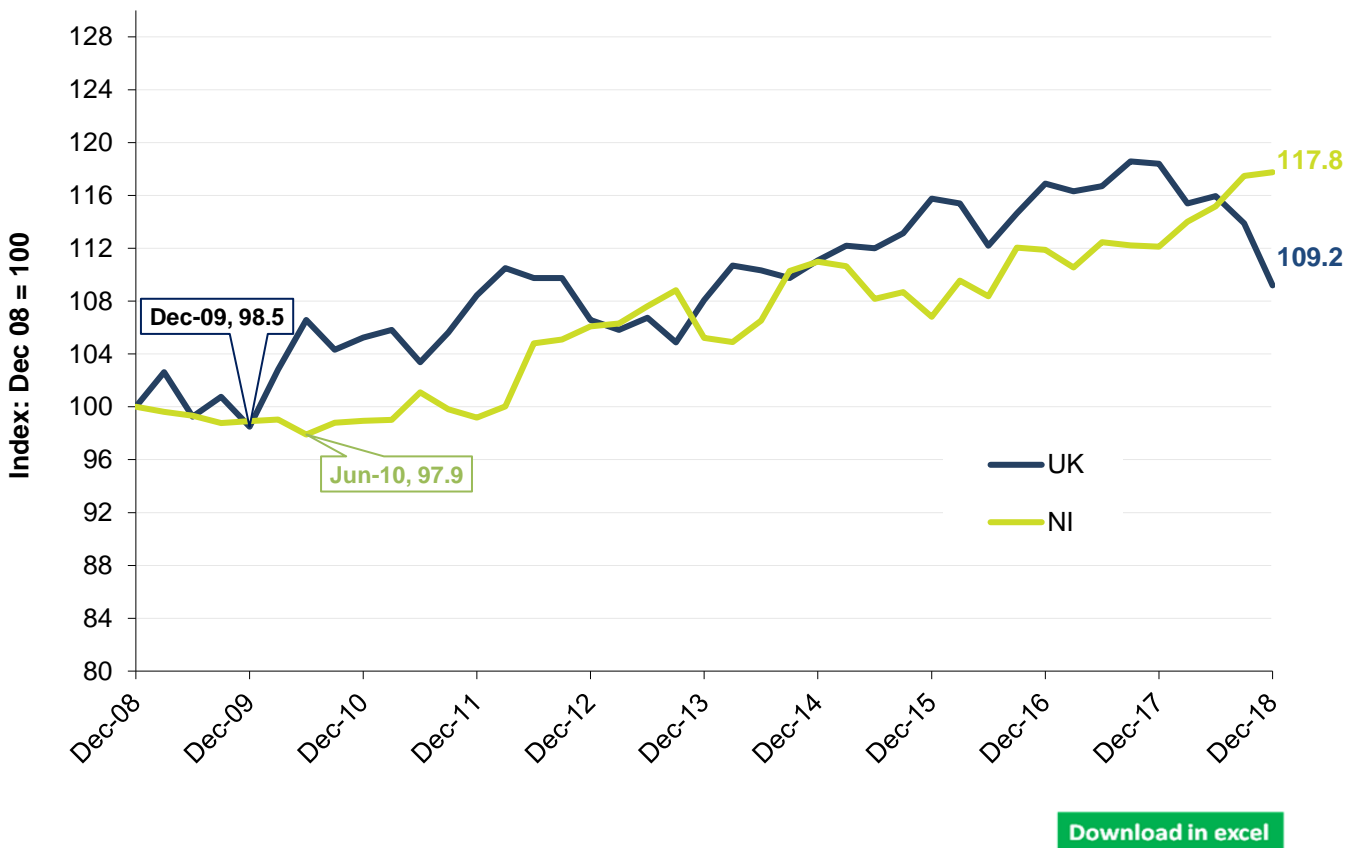
Other industries sector: the other industries sector contains businesses with activity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (industry sections A,B,D and E).

Estimates from the annual Farm Census are included in industry section A (accounting for 91% of the employee jobs in the section). The Farm Census figures are published annually in January and relate to the previous June. The most recent results (relating to June 2018) are included in this publication.

Key Findings:

- **Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 0.2% in the other industries sector over the quarter to December 2018 and an increase of 5.0% over the year to 23,600 jobs.**
- **The other industries sector made up 3.1% of all employee jobs.**

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



Figures are indexed to December 2008

Over the last 10 years the other industries sector in NI and the UK increased overall. The number of employee jobs in the NI other industries sector increased by 3,560 over the 10 year period to December 2018.

Please note, the annual farm census showed an increase of 110 jobs between June 2017 and June 2018, which is reflected in the increase between March and June 2018 in the other industries.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the other industries sector increased by 0.2% (50 jobs) over the quarter and by 5.0% (1,130 jobs) over the year to 23,600 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 December 2018 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 5.0% (1,130 jobs) in the other industries sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 16.4% (690 jobs) in waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery
- an increase of 1.1% (140 jobs) in crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities
- an increase of 7.1% (130 jobs) in other mining and quarrying

These increases were partially offset by small decreases in fishing and aquaculture; and sewerage.

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

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

3 Public / private sector employee jobs

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

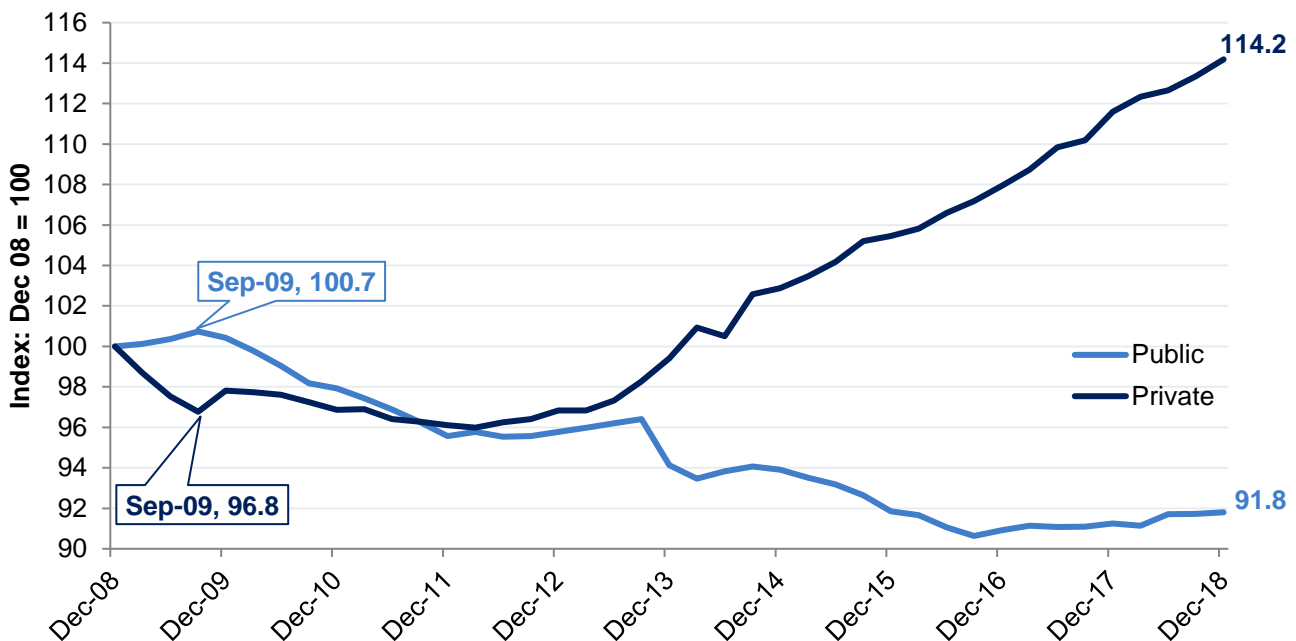
- NI central government
- Bodies under aegis of NI central government
- UK central government employees based in Northern Ireland
- Local government
- Public corporations

Private sector: The private sector encompasses all for-profit businesses (that are not owned or operated by the government) and the voluntary sector; which includes charities and other non-profit organisations.

Key findings:

- The NI public sector made up 26.9% and the private sector made up 73.1% of all employee jobs. NI public sector jobs as a proportion of the NI population was 11%. This compares to 8% in the UK.
- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the public sector increased over the quarter and year to 207,950 jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the private sector increased over the quarter and year to 565,480 jobs.

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



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to December 2008

Note:

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

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

- 207,950 employees in the NI public sector.
- 565,480 employees in the NI private sector.

Changes over the quarter

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- an increase of 0.1% (180 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 0.7% (4,160 jobs) in the private sector.

Changes over the year

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- an increase of 0.6% (1,260 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 2.3% (12,860 jobs) in the private sector.

4 Composition of employee jobs

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

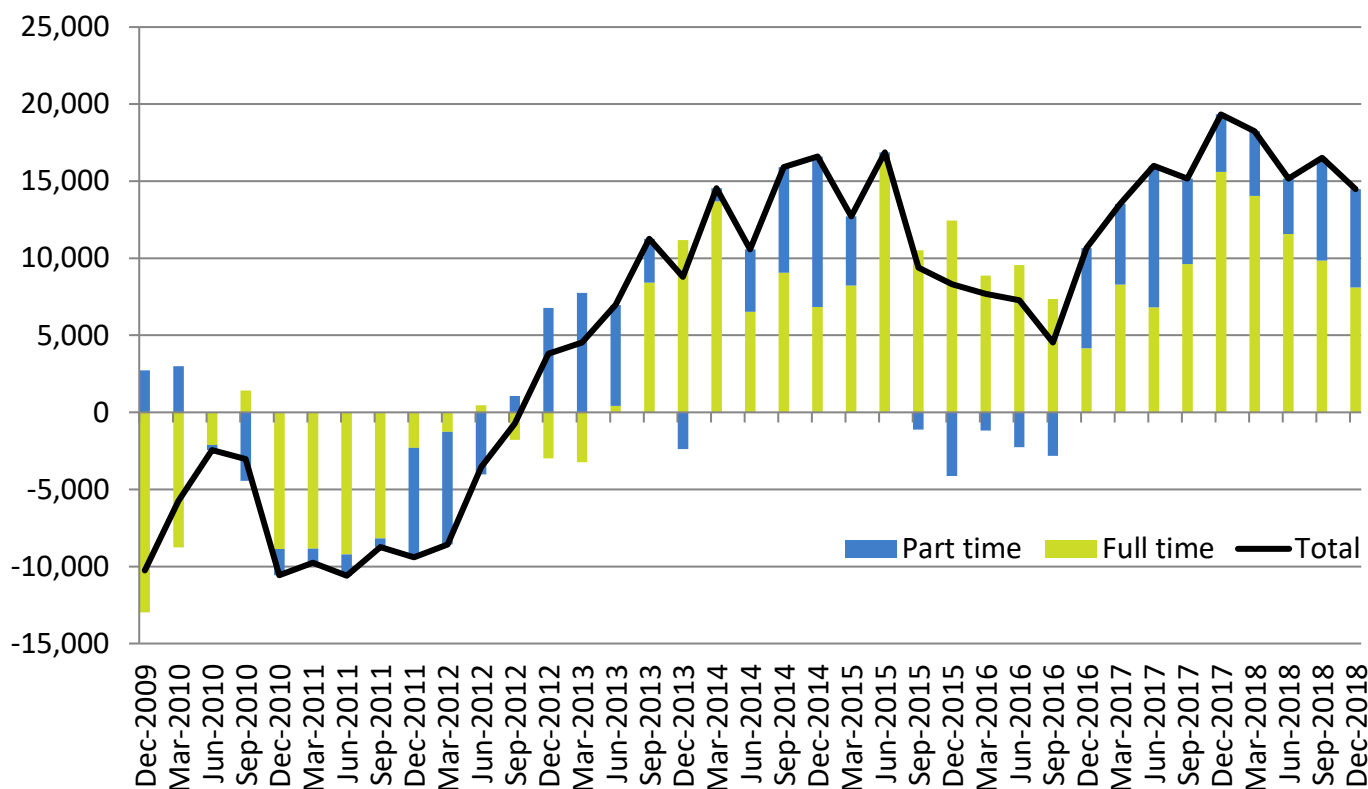
Part-time: Part-time means those who normally work 30 hours a week or less.

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

Key Findings

- Full-time jobs accounted for 56% of the growth in all employee jobs over the year
- Increases were seen over the year in both full-time (1.6% or 8,110 jobs) and part-time jobs (2.4% or 6,380 jobs).
- Full-time jobs accounted for 65% of all employee jobs, with part-time accounting for 35% in December 2018

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



[Download in excel](#)

The latest estimates showed that:

- Part-time jobs increased by 12.7% (30,740 jobs) since the recent low point in March 2012.
- The recent low point for full-time jobs was a year later (March 2013) than for part-time jobs. The number of full-time jobs has increased by 13.6% (60,710 jobs) since this point.

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

[Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

5 Further Information

Background

Estimates of the number of employee jobs are obtained from the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). The QBS is a statutory survey issued under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 and is designed to collect information on employees and turnover. The main outputs are published in four quarterly publications – The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), Index of Services (IOS), Index of Production (IOP) and Quarterly Construction Enquiry (QCE).

Sample

The QES, IOS, IOP and QCE are sampled independently and there is an overlap between QES and IOS/IOP/QCE of approximately 2,250 businesses.

The QES covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. The quarterly survey covers all industrial sections apart from agriculture. Employee estimates for the agricultural sector are provided, on an annual basis (figures for June are provided in the January of the following year), from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Farm Census. Agriculture employees include all workers on agricultural businesses other than (a) part-time farmers and partners and (b) farmers' spouses. They include full-time, part-time and casual workers, both paid and unpaid.

The QES sample is drawn from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), as follows:

Employment Size/Sector	Coverage
0-9 employees	Sample (4%)
10-24 employees	Sample (9%)
Multiple Industry Activities	Full Count (100%)
25+ employees	Full Count (100%)
Public Sector	Full Count (100%)

As the QES is a sample survey, estimates obtained from it are subject to sampling variability i.e. if we drew many similar samples each would give a different result. Confidence intervals provide a measure of the size of the sampling variability. The 95% confidence interval for the December 2018 employee jobs estimate is 778,350 +/- 7,300. This means that in 100 similar samples we would expect 95 (95%) of the confidence intervals to contain the true population value of the number of employee jobs.

The survey collects information on numbers of persons in full-time and part-time employment. It should be noted that the survey counts the number of jobs rather than the number of persons with jobs. For example, a person holding both a full-time job and a part-time job, or someone with two part-time jobs, will be counted twice.

Employment results are collated into industry classes using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC07). As a result, no individual business can be identified.

Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data

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

Volatility also arises when businesses inform NISRA of SIC code changes via business surveys, ONS and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). This new information helps to improve the industry estimates of employee jobs each quarter but also adds volatility to quarterly and annual changes, particularly at 2 digit SIC level. It is therefore recommended that changes in employee jobs estimates at 2 digit SIC level are considered in the context of a longer time series.

Discontinuity

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

Revisions Policy

QES estimates are revised quarterly to reflect the latest information provided by employers. The September 2018 seasonally adjusted estimate published in December 2018 has been revised up (0.3%).

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

Public Sector Reclassifications

Public sector jobs comprise Central Government (including Bodies under the aegis of Central Government), Local Government and Public Corporations.

The following table summarises the changes announced by the Public Sector Classification Committee and the date the changes took place.

Date of change	Summary	Revision applied from
December 2006	NI Housing Executive reclassified from SIC 75 to SIC 70	March 2004
January 2012	Water service became a Government owned company, as a result employees transferred from "NI Central Government" to "Bodies under the Aegis of NI Central Government"	April 2007
December 2013	Royal Mail plc reclassified to private sector	October 2013
March 2014	Lloyds Banking Group and its subsidiaries reclassified to private sector	December 2013
September 2017	Registered housing associations in NI reclassified to public sector	September 1992
September 2018	Registered housing associations in NI moved from section N to L in sections level data	March 2005 (in line with seasonally adjusted series)

Seasonal Adjustment

A seasonally adjusted series provides a better indication of underlying trends in employment. Time series data for seasonally adjusted employee jobs from 2005 to date for industry section (A-S) and main industrial sector are available on the NISRA website ([Quarterly Employment Survey](#)).

Seasonal adjustment models are periodically reviewed as seasonal trends can change over time. Estimates released in March 2019 are based on an updated seasonal adjustment model.

The following series continue to be seasonally adjusted:

- Male employee jobs in Manufacturing (Section C); Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (Section G); Transportation and Storage (Section H); Accommodation and Food Service Activities (Section I); Administrative and Support Service Activities (Section N); Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (Section O); and Education (Section P).
- Female employee jobs in Mining and Quarrying (Section B); Manufacturing (Section C); Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (Section G); Accommodation and Food Service Activities (Section I); Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (Section M); Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (Section O); Education (Section P); Human Health and Social Work Activities (Section Q) and Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (Section R).

In addition seasonality has now been identified:

- for female employee jobs in the Construction sector (Section F);
- for male employee jobs in the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector (Section R).

Seasonality has no longer been detected:

- for male employee jobs in Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply (Section D) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (Section M);
- for female employee jobs in Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities (Section E).

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 9437 or on the ELMS website [Business Register and Employment Survey](#)

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

Annualised or Rolling 4 Quarters

Annualised growth or rolling 4 quarters figures are calculated by taking the difference between the average over the most recent 4 quarters and the average over the same 4 quarters of the previous year, as a proportion of the average over the same 4 quarters of the previous year.

For example annualised growth of 2.1% between 2017 and 2018 reported in this publication is the average number of jobs from Q1 2018 to Q4 2018 minus the average number of jobs from Q1 2017 to Q4 2017, divided by the average of number of jobs from Q1 2017 to Q4 2017. This measure allows for comparison in growth to previous years and is useful in determining trends in the data.

Further Information

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

[Background Information](#)

Date of next publication

The next Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey publication is planned for 11th June 2019.

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

[Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

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

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