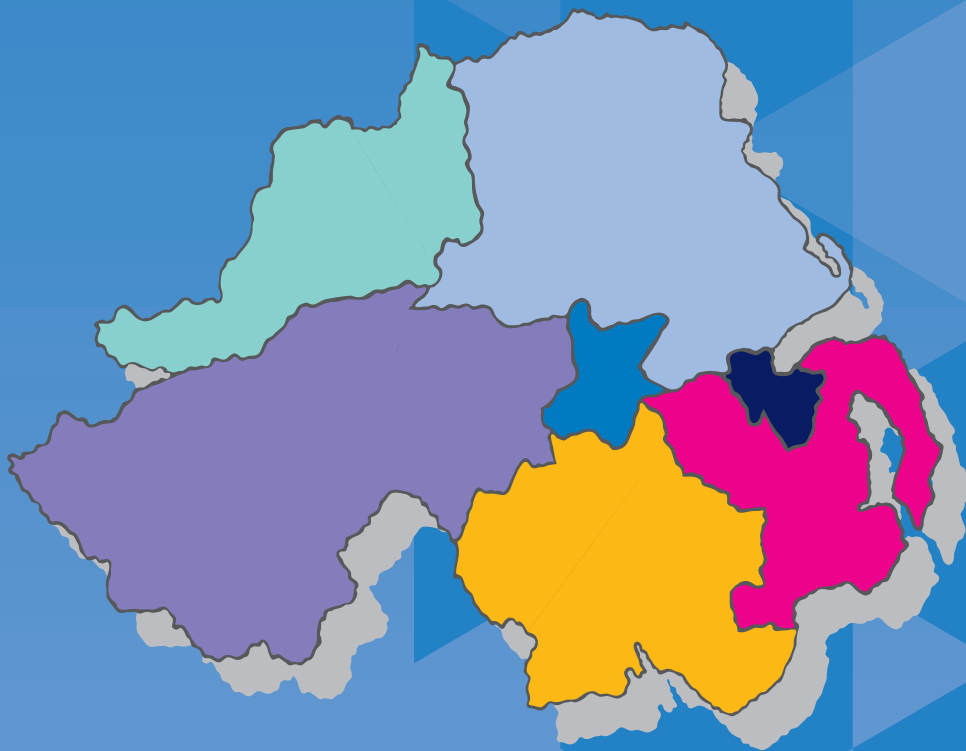




# Labour Market Profile



Northern  
Ireland



## KEY FIGURES

- **Table 1** shows the highest working age employment rate of 74.2% was in the Northern Regional WDF and the lowest working age employment rate of 60.6% was in the North West Regional WDF. The working age employment rate for Northern Ireland was 70.3%.
- The highest working age economic activity rate of 76.6% was in the Northern Regional WDF and the lowest working age economic activity rate of 65.6% was in the North West Regional WDF. The working age economic activity rate for Northern Ireland was 73.4% (**Table 1**).
- **Table 1** shows the highest working age economic inactivity rate of 34.4% was in the North West Regional WDF and the lowest working age economic inactivity rate of 23.4% was in the Northern Regional WDF. The working age economic inactivity rate for Northern Ireland was 26.6%.
- The highest claimant count rate of 6.1% was in the North West Regional WDF and the lowest claimant count rate of 3.3% was in the South Eastern Regional WDF. The claimant count rate for Northern Ireland as at March 2009 was 4.2% (**Table 1**).

**Table 1: Economic activity, inactivity and employment for the working age population in 2007 and claimant count as a proportion of the resident working age population as at March 2009 by WDF and Northern Ireland**

	Employment %	Economic Activity %	Economic Inactivity %	Claimant Count %
Belfast Metropolitan WDF	69.7	72.2	27.8	4.8
Northern Regional WDF	74.2	76.6	23.4	3.7
North West Regional WDF	60.6	65.6	34.4	6.1
Southern Regional WDF	71.9	75.3	24.7	3.9
South Eastern Regional WDF	71.9	75.0	25.0	3.3
South West WDF	68.0	70.9	29.1	4.0
Northern Ireland	70.3	73.4	26.6	4.2
	<b>761,000</b>	<b>794,000</b>	<b>288,000</b>	<b>45,286</b>

Sources: *Employment, Economic Activity & Inactivity - Labour Force Survey Local Area Database 2007, DETI; Claimant Count - Claimant Count, DETI*

## OVERVIEW OF THE WORKFORCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

This report provides a labour market profile for Northern Ireland and comprises information both for Northern Ireland as a whole and by WDF where appropriate. The content is based on official information sources.

### POPULATION

- The population of Northern Ireland in 2007 was 1,759,148 with 49% being males (862,000) and 51% being females (897,148).
- Between 1997 and 2007 the population of Northern Ireland has increased by 87,887 (5.3%).
- The working age population in Northern Ireland was 1,089,389 in 2007.
- The working age population has increased by 86,500 (8.6%) between 1997 and 2007.
- The number of young people in Northern Ireland (aged 16-24) increased by 18,748 between 1997 and 2007. This is an increase of 8.7%.
- The number of 25-49 year olds in Northern Ireland increased by 28,495 between 1997 and 2007. This is an increase of 4.9%.
- The number of people aged 50-59/64 increased by 39,257 between 1997 and 2007. This is an increase of 19.1%.

### WORKFORCE EMPLOYMENT

There were 710,638 employee jobs in Northern Ireland in 2007. This represented an increase of 27,584 (4.0%) since 2005.

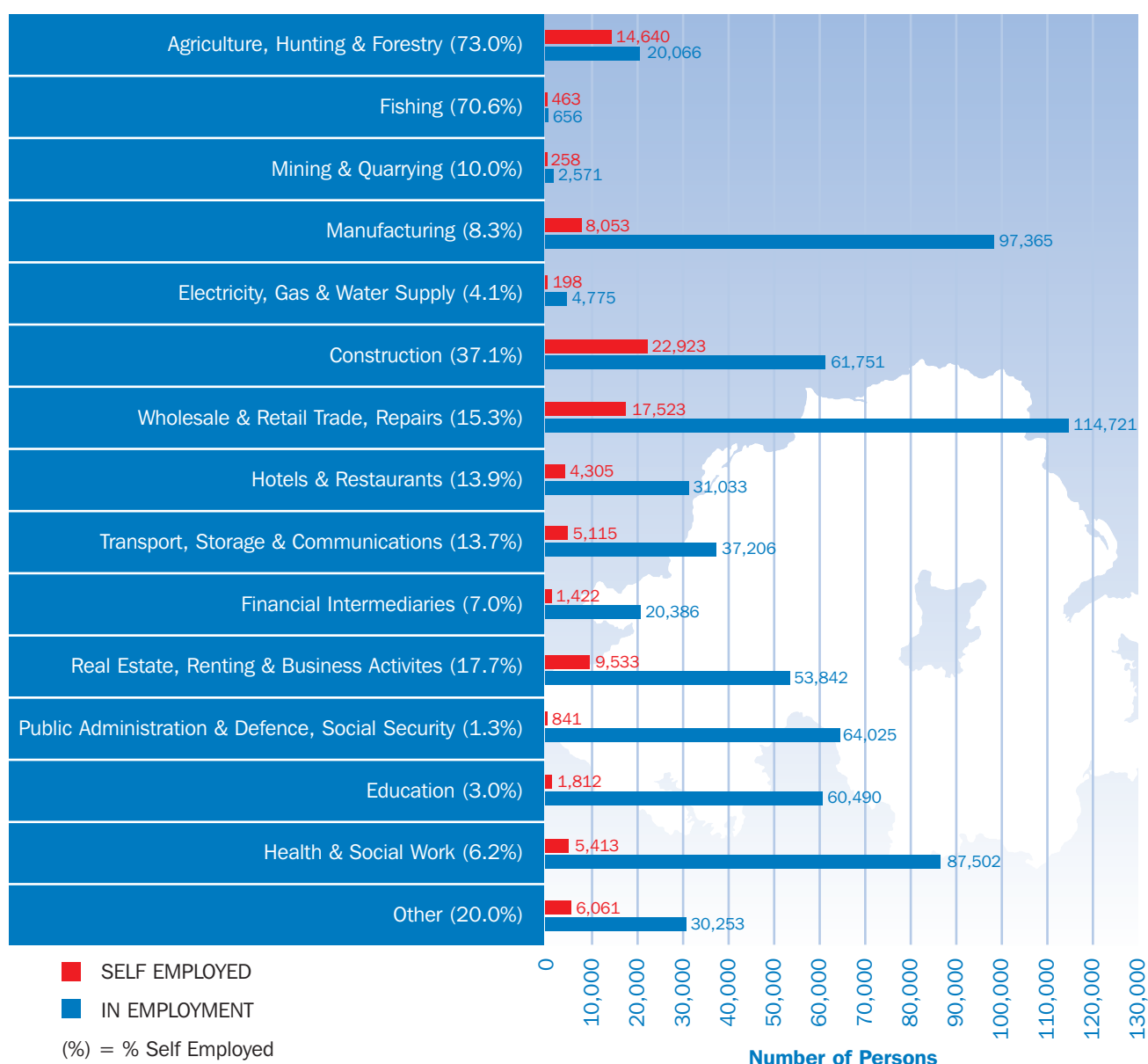
- Females made up 51.7% of all employees in Northern Ireland in 2007. The number of female jobs increased by 2.8% between 2005 and 2007. Male employment in Northern Ireland increased by 5.4% in the same period.
- Two thirds (66.9%) of jobs were full-time in 2007. Full-time jobs increased by 4.2% between 2005 and 2007 while part-time jobs increased by 3.6%.

## SELF EMPLOYED

There are differences between the percentages of persons aged 16 to 74 who were self-employed in the week before the Census 2001 by industry and by WDF (**Figure 1**).

- **Figure 1** shows that in 2001, 73.0% of those persons aged 16 to 74 in Agriculture, Hunting & Forestry in Northern Ireland were self-employed. There were 70.6% of persons in Fishing who were also self-employed.
- **Figure 1** shows that 3.0% of persons aged between 16 and 74 in Education were self-employed, as were 1.3% of persons in Public Administration & Defence, Social Security.

**Figure 1: All persons aged 16-74 in employment the week before the Census 2001 for Northern Ireland**



Source: Census 2001

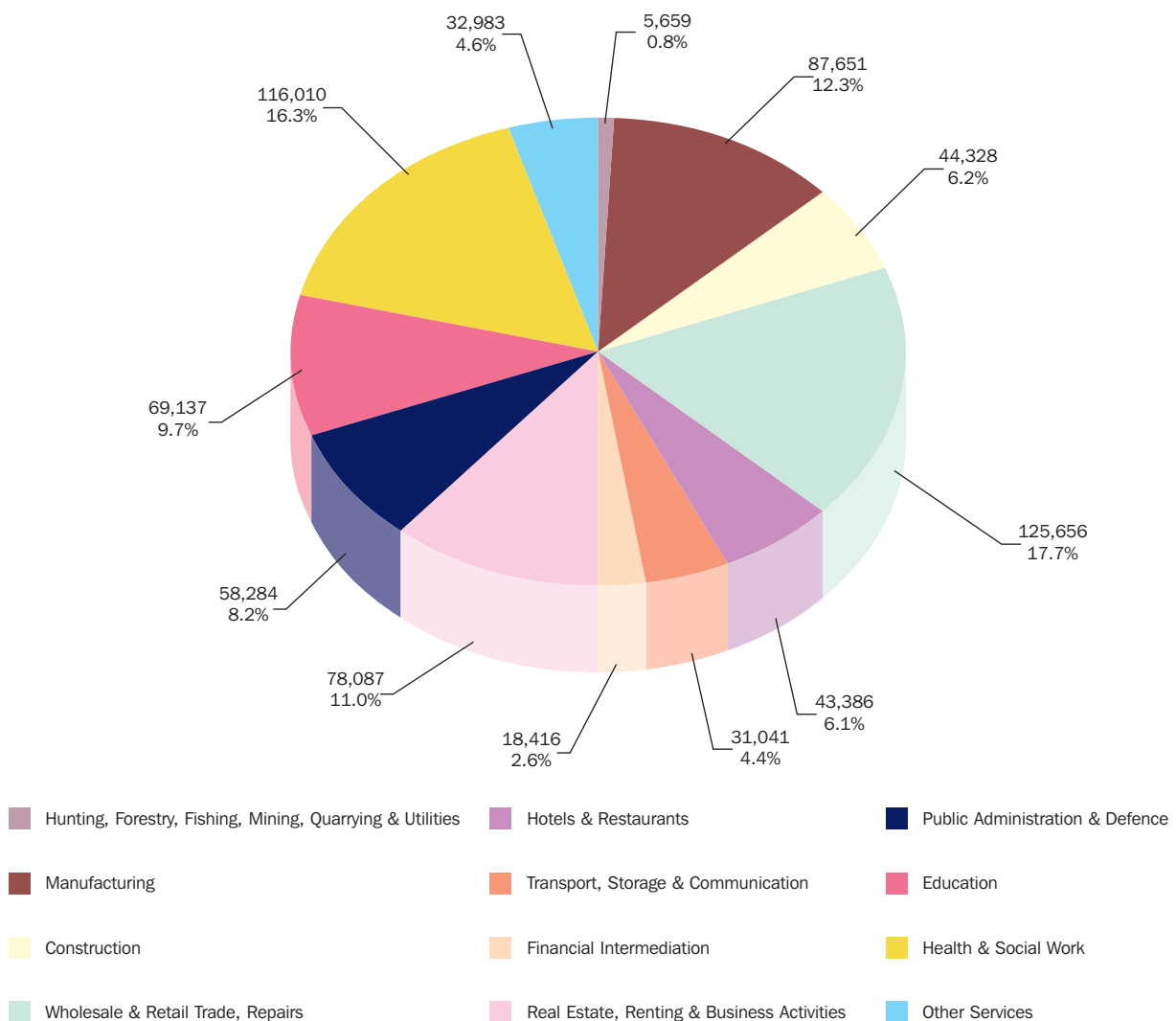
Note: Figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding.

## INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE

There are differences between the percentages of employee jobs by industry and by WDF.

- **Figure 2** shows that 17.7% of jobs were in Wholesale & Retail Trade, Repairs followed by 16.3% in Health & Social Work and 12.3% in Manufacturing.
- In 2007, Financial Intermediaries accounted for 18,416 jobs which equates to 2.6% of all Northern Ireland jobs. Together, Hunting, Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying & Utilities make up 0.8% of all employee jobs in Northern Ireland (**Figure 2**).

**Figure 2: Employee jobs by industrial sector for Northern Ireland, 2007**



Source: *Census of Employment 2007, DETI*

Note: Figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding.

There are differences between the percentage changes in employee jobs by industry and by WDF.

- Between 2005 and 2007 employee jobs in Construction increased by 15.6% (5,989 jobs) in Northern Ireland (**Table 2**).
- **Table 2** shows that Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities increased by 14.5%, Transport, Storage & Communication increased by 7.7%, Wholesale & Retail Trade, Repairs increased by 5.7% whilst jobs in Health & Social Work have increased by 4.7% in this period.
- Education decreased by 4.8% which equates to a loss of 3,461 jobs between 2005 and 2007 in Northern Ireland. During the same period, Public Administration & Defence, Social Security decreased by 2.8% (**Table 2**).
- **Table 2** shows that Manufacturing decreased by 46 jobs which equates to a loss of 0.1% between 2005 and 2007.

**Table 2: Percentage change in Employee Jobs by industrial sector for each WDF and Northern Ireland, September 2005 to September 2007**

	Belfast Metropolitan WDF	Northern Regional WDF	North West Regional WDF	Southern Regional WDF	South Eastern Regional WDF	South West WDF	Northern Ireland	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	No	%
Hunting, Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying & Utilities	+7.5	+0.4	+19.6	+10.1	-14.2	+10.8	+259	+4.8
Manufacturing	-10.8	+0.6	-8.5	+6.0	-3.8	+10.8	-46	-0.1
Construction	+9.8	+18.8	+12.7	+11.3	+15.6	+24.2	+5,989	+15.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade, Repairs	+3.6	+4.3	+7.2	+9.3	+3.1	+11.3	+6,732	+5.7
Hotels & Restaurants	+2.8	+2.0	-3.3	+16.4	+2.1	+0.4	+1,406	+3.3
Transport, Storage & Communications	+6.7	+9.4	+0.1	+8.9	+9.8	+7.2	+2,219	+7.7
Financial Intermediaries	-3.7	+1.9	+12.1	+5.7	+13.2	+42.0	+476	+2.7
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	+14.2	+7.2	+31.7	+6.6	+21.2	+26.3	+9,896	+14.5
Public Administration & Defence, Social Security	-4.0	+0.6	-1.9	-3.3	+2.2	-9.4	-1,660	-2.8
Education	+1.8	-13.4	-4.1	+0.8	-9.0	-3.5	-3,461	-4.8
Health & Social Work	+6.1	+3.1	+6.7	+4.2	+3.3	+4.1	+5,230	+4.7
Other Services	-0.9	+1.5	+1.8	+5.9	+4.2	+1.6	+544	+1.7

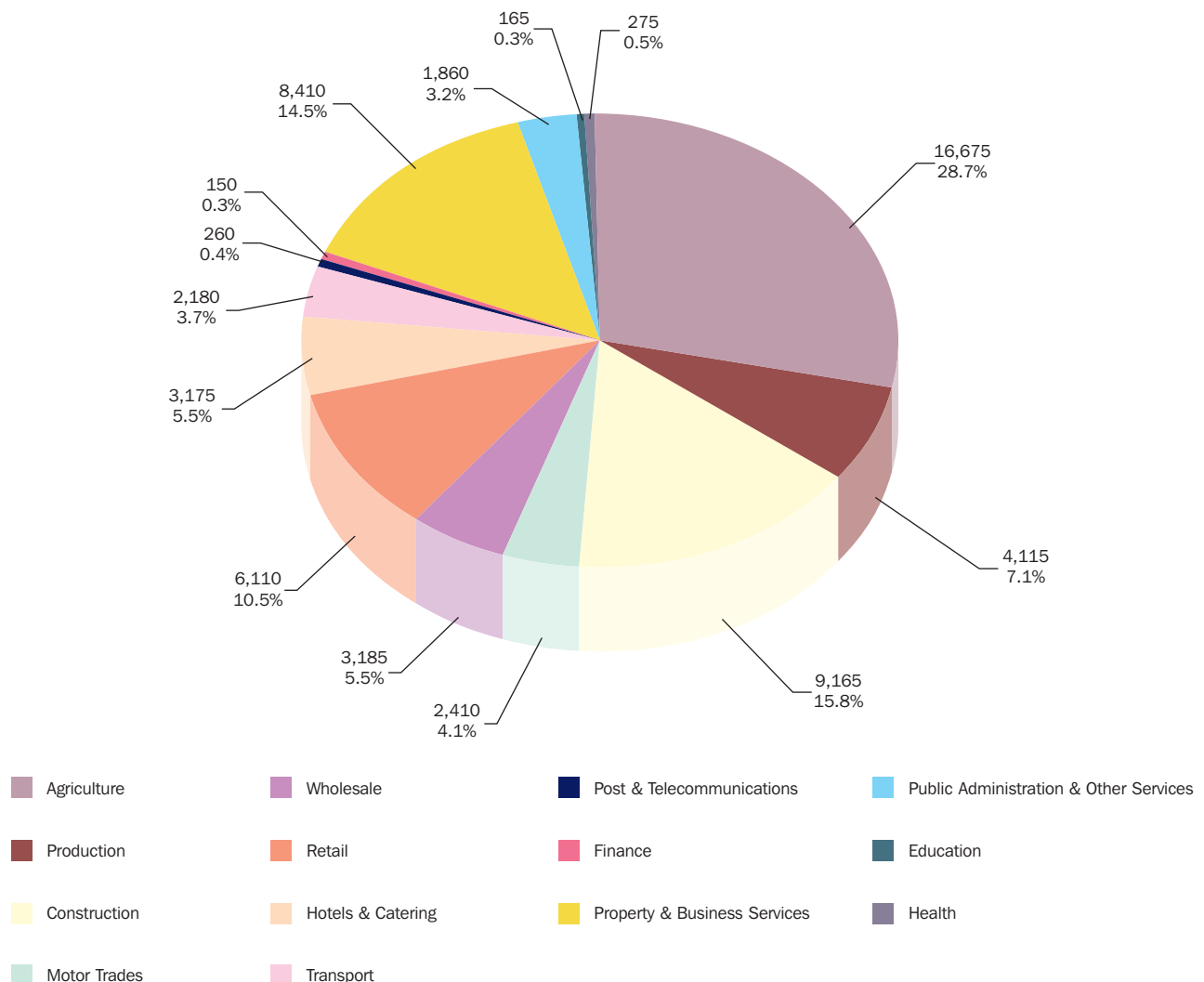
Source: *Census of Employment 2007, DETI*

## VAT REGISTERED ENTERPRISES

There are differences between the percentages of VAT registered businesses by industrial sector and by WDF in 2007.

- **Figure 3** shows that in 2007 there were a total of 58,135 VAT registered businesses in Northern Ireland. Of these over a quarter were in Agriculture (28.7%), followed by 15.8% in Construction.
- The number of VAT registered businesses increased by 2.6% between 2006 and 2007.

**Figure 3: Number of VAT registered businesses by industrial sector for Northern Ireland, 2007**



Source: *Inter-departmental Business Register, DETI*

### Notes:

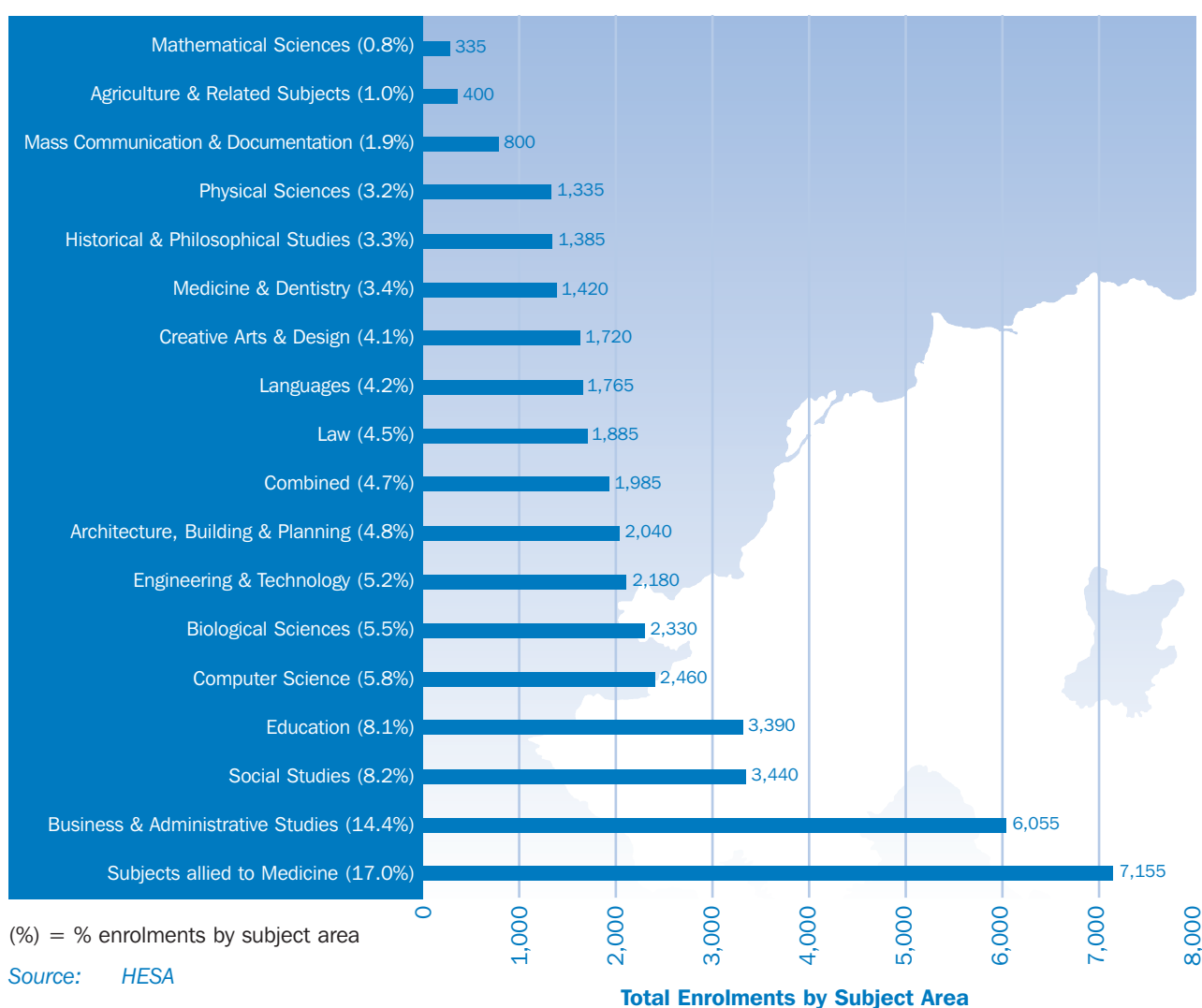
1. Figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding.
2. On the Inter-departmental Business Register (IDBR), the enterprise is the statistical unit that most closely relates to a business.

Definition: "The enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that has an organisational unit producing goods or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, especially for the allocation of its current resources. An enterprise carries out one or more activities at one or more locations. An enterprise may be a sole legal unit."

## HIGHER EDUCATION

- **Figure 4** shows the number of Northern Ireland domiciled students enrolled at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions. In 2007/08 17.0% of students were enrolled in Subjects allied to Medicine whilst 14.4% of students were enrolled in Business & Administrative Studies.
- The lowest number of enrolments was in Mathematical Sciences (0.8%), followed by Agriculture & Related Subjects (1.0%) and Mass Communications & Documentation (1.9%) (**Figure 4**).

**Figure 4: Northern Ireland domiciled students enrolled at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions by subject area, 2007/08**

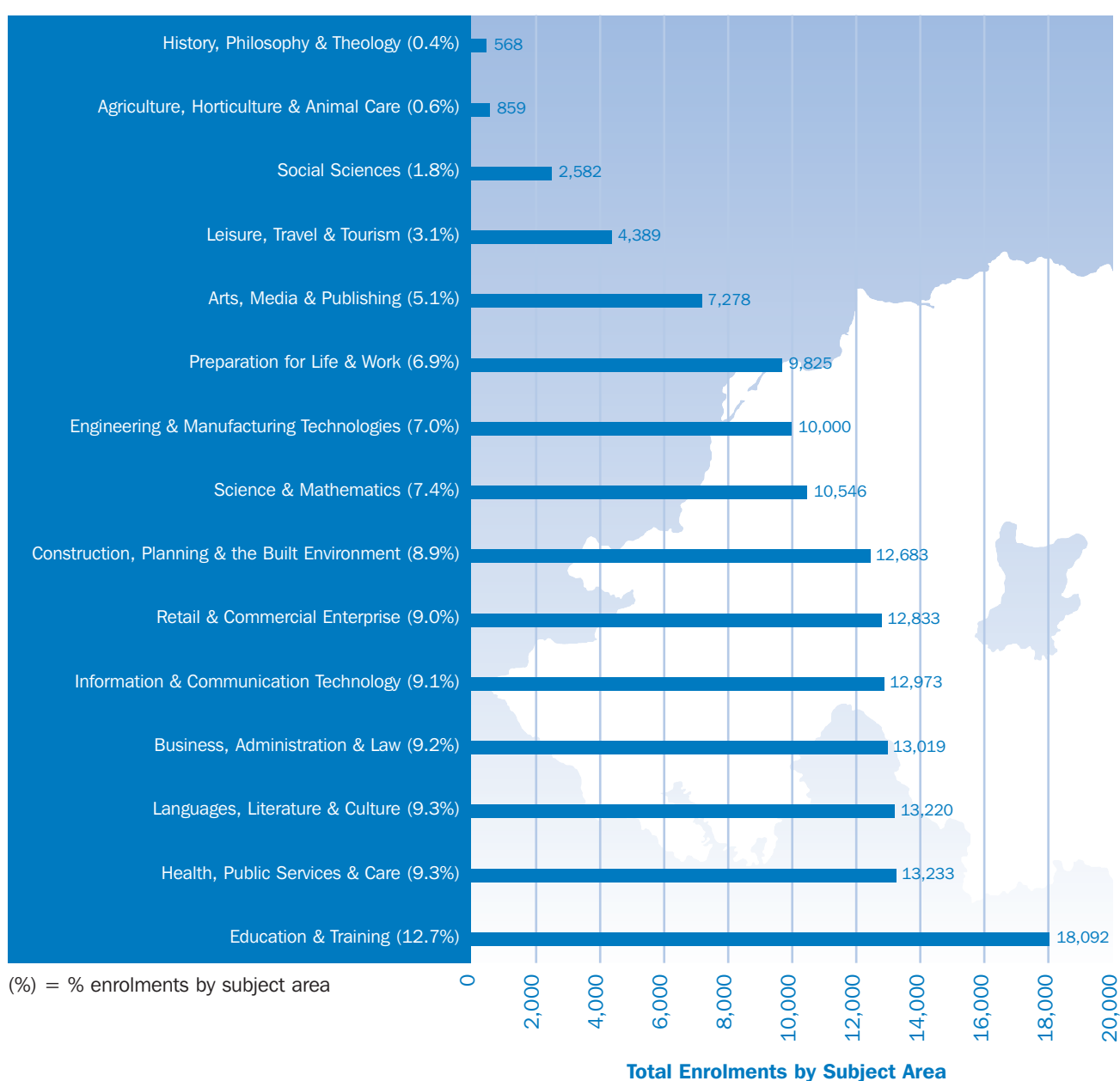


1. All figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding.
3. The specification of the HESA Standard Registration Population has changed for 2007/08 enrolments. Writing up and sabbatical students are now excluded from this population where they were previously included in published enrolment data. In order to maintain time series accuracy, all historical data will now use the 2007/08 definition of the Standard Registration Population (excluding writing up and sabbatical students). As a result, enrolment data may not match other published HESA data prior to 2007/08.

## FURTHER EDUCATION

- **Figure 5** shows that the highest number of enrolments in 2007/08 was in Education & Training courses (12.7%). This was followed by Language, Literature & Culture courses and Health, Public Services & Care courses which each account for 9.3% of enrolments in Northern Ireland colleges.
- There were less than 1% of enrolments in both Agriculture, Horticulture & Animal Care courses (0.6%) and History, Philosophy & Theology courses (0.4%).

**Figure 5: Enrolments at Northern Ireland Further Education Colleges by subject area, 2007/08**



Source: FESR

Note: Figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding.

## QUALIFICATIONS

There are differences between the percentages of the working age population by NVQ qualification level and by WDF.

- **Table 3** shows that 41.6% of the Northern Ireland working age population in 2001 had no qualifications.
- **Table 3** also shows that 42.6% of the Northern Ireland working age population in 2001 had qualification Levels 1, 2 or 3 (A-level or less).
- 15.8% of the Northern Ireland working age population in 2001 had qualification Levels 4 and 5 (First degree and higher) (**Table 3**).

**Table 3: Qualification levels of the working age population by WDF and Northern Ireland**

	All persons %	No qualifications %	Level 1 %	Level 2 %	Level 3 %	Level 4 %	Level 5 %
<b>Belfast Metropolitan WDF</b>	100.0	40.6	15.2	13.9	10.5	12.7	7.1
<b>Northern Regional WDF</b>	100.0	41.5	17.9	17.0	8.8	10.6	4.2
<b>North West Regional WDF</b>	100.0	46.5	17.1	15.4	8.0	8.9	4.0
<b>Southern Regional WDF</b>	100.0	44.1	17.3	16.6	8.5	9.6	3.9
<b>South Eastern Regional WDF</b>	100.0	36.4	18.6	18.2	9.3	12.3	5.2
<b>South West WDF</b>	100.0	45.0	17.2	16.8	7.5	9.6	3.8
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	100.0	41.6	17.2	16.4	9.0	10.9	4.9
	<b>1,187,079</b>	<b>494,277</b>	<b>204,478</b>	<b>194,265</b>	<b>106,548</b>	<b>129,741</b>	<b>57,770</b>

Source: Census 2001

Notes:

1. Figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding.
2. Qualification NVQ Levels

No Qualifications: No qualifications

Level 1 : GCSE (grades D-G), CSE (grades 2-5), 1-4 CSEs (grade 1), 1-4 GCSEs (grades A-C), 1-4 'O' level passes, NVQ Level 1, GNVQ Foundation or equivalents

Level 2 : 5+ CSEs (grade 1), 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), 5+ 'O' level passes, Senior Certificate, 1 'A' level, 1-3 AS levels, Advanced Senior Certificate, NVQ Level 2, GNVQ Intermediate or equivalents

Level 3 : 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, NVQ Level 3, GNVQ Advanced or equivalents

Level 4 : First Degree, NVQ Level 4, HNC, HND or equivalents

Level 5 : Higher Degree, NVQ Level 5 or equivalents

## MIGRANT WORKERS

There are migrants from a large number of countries living and working within Northern Ireland.

- The net external migration to Northern Ireland between Mid 2006 and Mid 2007 was 9,806<sup>1</sup>.
- In 2001 there were 10,355 individuals who recorded their country of birth as being from another EU country and 20,204 recorded their country of birth as being born elsewhere (not another EU country and not Northern Ireland). These two groups equate to 1.8% of the Northern Ireland population<sup>1</sup>.
- Between April 2004 and March 2006 there were 21,440 NINO registrations from migrants in Northern Ireland<sup>2</sup>.
- In Northern Ireland there were 31,545 Workers Registration Scheme Registrations (WRSR) between May 2004 and March 2008<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Black and Minority Ethnic and Migrant Worker Mapping Update, January 2009

<sup>2</sup> Department for Social Development, June 2007

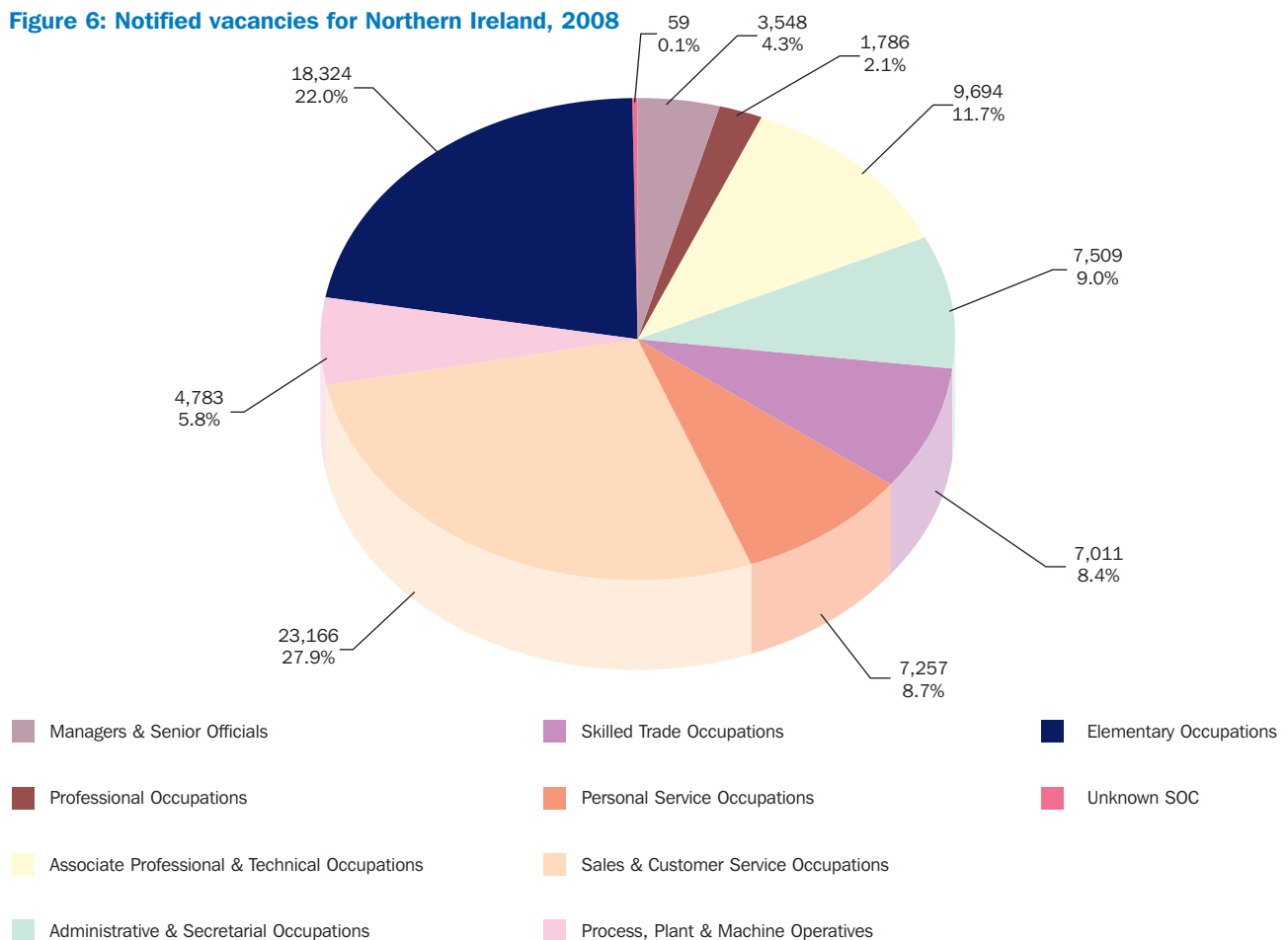
<sup>3</sup> Home Office – Immigration and Nationality Directorate, July 2008

## VACANCIES

There are a number of differences between the percentages of vacancies by occupation and by WDF.

- **Figure 6** shows that over a quarter of all notified vacancies in 2008 in Northern Ireland were in Sales & Customer Service Occupations (27.9%) while over a fifth (22.0%) were in Elementary Occupations.
- In 2008, the smallest number of vacancies were for Professional Occupations accounting for 2.1% of all vacancies (**Figure 6**).

**Figure 6: Notified vacancies for Northern Ireland, 2008**



Source: Client Management System, Department for Employment and Learning

### Notes:

1. Northern Ireland vacancy figures are taken from the Department for Employment and Learning Client Management System (CMS) and include vacancies both notified and added to during 2008. Vacancies notified are all vacancy positions notified and added to JobCentres/Jobs & Benefits offices (JBOs) of the Department.
2. Vacancies may be subsequently cancelled or withdrawn and such amendments are not incorporated in the figures.
3. Vacancy statistics are currently under review within the Department.
4. Occupations are taken from the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2000.
5. As vacancies are mapped to WDF on the basis of postcode, those with incomplete / missing postcodes are categorised as unknown; these are included in **Figure 6** above for Northern Ireland.
6. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

## REDUNDANCIES

There are differences between the number of redundancies by year and by WDF.

- **Table 4** shows that in 2008 there were 2,777 confirmed redundancies in Northern Ireland.
- **Table 4** shows that over the period 2007 to 2008, the number of confirmed redundancies in Northern Ireland increased by 37.3%.
- In 2008 the highest number of confirmed redundancies was in the North West Regional WDF, while the lowest number of confirmed redundancies was recorded in the South Eastern Regional WDF (**Table 4**).

**Table 4: Confirmed Redundancies by WDF and Northern Ireland, 2003 to 2008**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Belfast Metropolitan WDF</b>	1,186	1,075	771	977	611	306
<b>Northern Regional WDF</b>	1,259	646	478	961	587	452
<b>North West Regional WDF</b>	1,227	912	402	558	112	1,090
<b>Southern Regional WDF</b>	473	87	233	251	123	623
<b>South Eastern Regional WDF</b>	1,017	217	428	215	566	114
<b>South West WDF</b>	414	86	205	193	23	192
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	5,576	3,023	2,517	3,155	2,022	2,777

Source: *Redundancies, DETI*

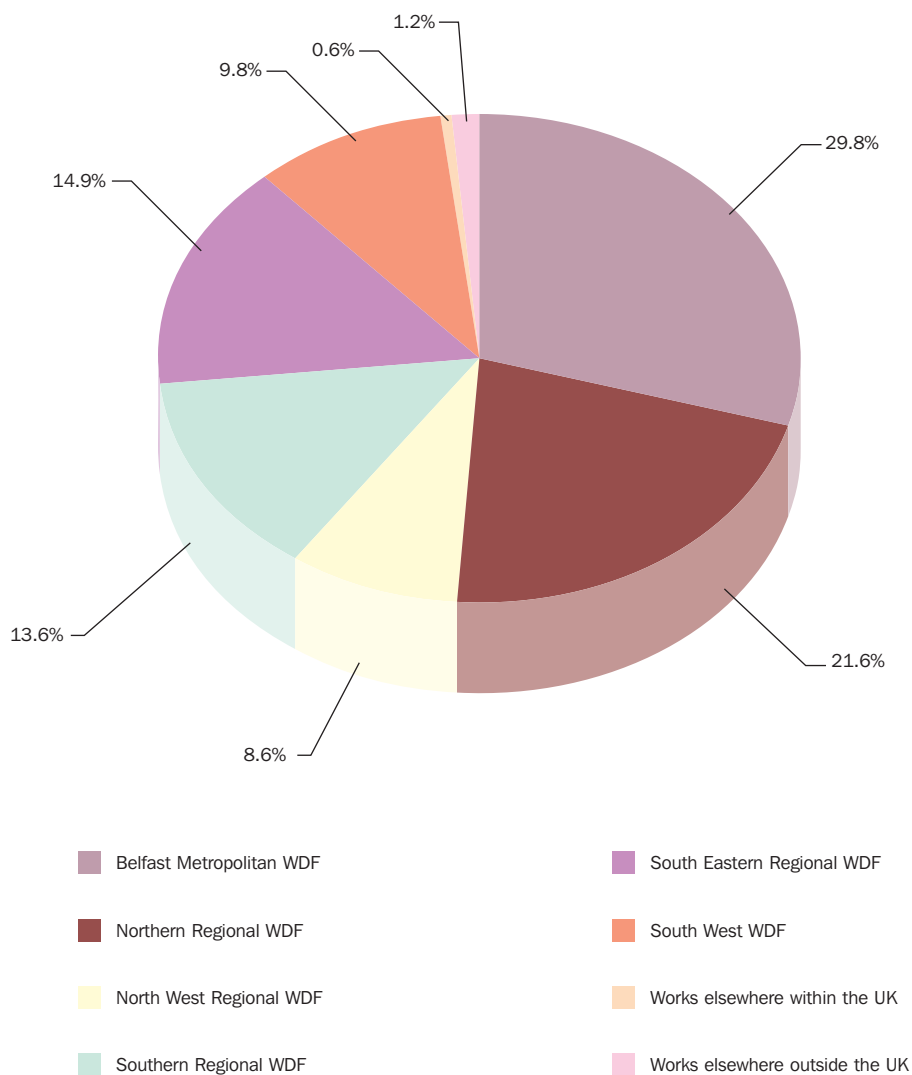
Notes:

1. Figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding.
2. Under the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (Amended 8 October 2006) companies are only legally required to notify the Department of impending redundancies of 20 or more employees, hence these figures underestimate the total number of losses. The above figures represent the number of people confirmed to the Department as subsequently being made redundant.

## TRAVEL TO WORK

- **Figure 7** shows that in 2001 98.2% of the persons living in Northern Ireland who were in employment worked in Northern Ireland. 0.6% worked elsewhere within the UK and 1.2% worked elsewhere outside the UK (1.0% in Republic of Ireland, 0.2% Other).
- In 2001, almost a third (29.8%) of persons living in Northern Ireland who were in employment worked in the Belfast Metropolitan WDF, whilst less than a tenth of persons (8.6%) work in the North West Regional WDF (**Figure 7**).

**Figure 7: Travel to work patterns of Northern Ireland residents**



Source: *Census 2001*

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

## ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT DEMAND FOR OCCUPATIONS<sup>4</sup>

- Annual development demand for occupations includes both expansion demand (growth) and replacement demand caused by permanent retirements, leavers to another occupation, leavers to unemployment/inactivity and leavers to migration. **Table 5** shows the anticipated development demand of Northern Ireland to 2015. It should be noted that these figures represent best estimates and should be regarded as indicative only.
- Table 5** shows the key occupations that are expected to grow include Sales (8,450 jobs per year) and Elementary Administration & Service (8,450 jobs per year). Occupations with lower levels of demand include Protective Service, Customer Service, Health Professionals, Culture, Media & Sports, Science & Technology Associate Professionals and Skilled Agricultural Trades.

**Table 5: Annual Development Demand for Occupations to 2015\***

Occupations	Belfast Metropolitan WDF	Northern Regional WDF	North West Regional WDF	Southern Regional WDF	South Eastern Regional WDF	South West WDF	Northern Ireland	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	No <sup>#</sup>	% <sup>#</sup>
Corporate Managers	6.9	7.2	5.8	6.9	8.6	5.9	4,800	7.1
Managers & Proprietors in Agriculture & Services	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.7	2,200	3.3
Science & Technology Professionals	2.9	1.8	1.7	1.5	2.1	1.5	1,350	2.0
Health Professionals	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.7	500	0.7
Teaching & Research Professionals	3.6	3.3	4.1	3.4	3.2	3.7	2,350	3.5
Business & Public Service Professionals	5.1	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.9	3.0	2,450	3.6
Science & Technology Associate Professionals	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.0	1.1	0.7	900	1.3
Health & Social Welfare Associate Professionals	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.0	1,700	2.5
Protective Service Occupations	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	100	0.1
Culture, Media & Sports Occupations	1.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.4	0.7	800	1.2
Business & Public Service Associate Professionals	5.1	4.5	4.1	4.4	5.0	3.7	3,050	4.5
Administrative Occupations	10.5	9.9	9.1	8.9	11.1	8.1	6,700	9.9
Secretarial & Related Occupations	4.3	3.9	3.3	3.9	4.3	3.7	2,650	3.9
Skilled Agricultural Trades	0.4	1.8	1.6	2.5	1.1	3.7	1,100	1.6
Skilled Metal & Electrical Trades	1.4	2.4	1.7	2.0	1.8	2.2	1,350	2.0
Skilled Construction & Building Trades	1.8	3.6	4.1	4.9	3.2	5.2	2,450	3.6
Textiles, Printing & Other Skilled Trades	1.8	2.4	2.5	3.0	2.1	3.0	1,600	2.4
Caring Personal Service Occupations	6.9	7.5	7.4	7.9	8.9	8.9	5,300	7.9
Leisure & Personal Service Occupations	1.8	2.1	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.2	1,450	2.1
Sales Occupations	13.4	12.8	12.4	11.8	12.1	11.1	8,450	12.5
Customer Service Occupations	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.7	450	0.7
Process, Plant & Machine Operatives	2.2	4.5	5.8	4.9	2.9	4.4	2,600	3.9
Transport & Mobile Machine Drivers & Operatives	2.5	3.9	3.3	4.4	2.9	4.4	2,350	3.5
Elementary Trades, Plant & Storage Related Occupations	2.2	3.6	4.1	4.4	2.5	4.4	2,300	3.4
Elementary Administration & Service Occupations	15.6	12.5	12.4	10.8	11.1	11.1	8,450	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>67,500</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Rounded to nearest 50.

# Figures and percentages may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: Nick Rogers, Economic Development Policy Unit, North Down Borough Council

Note: It should be noted that these figures represent best estimates and should be regarded as indicative only as they may be affected by changing economic and labour market conditions.

<sup>4</sup> Information on Annual Development Demand for Occupations has been supplied by Nick Rogers of the Economic Development Policy Unit of North Down Borough Council. We are very grateful to Nick for allowing us to reproduce his information.

## **USEFUL SOURCES OF LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION**

Expert Group on Future Skills Needs – Republic of Ireland

[www.skillsireland.ie](http://www.skillsireland.ie)

DETI – Northern Ireland District Council Briefing, Redundancies, Census of Employment, Labour Force Survey, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

[www.detini.gov.uk/cgi-bin/gethome](http://www.detini.gov.uk/cgi-bin/gethome)

UK Labour Market Trends

[www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=550&More=N](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=550&More=N)

Office for National Statistics

[www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp)

Careers Service Northern Ireland

[www.careersserviceni.com](http://www.careersserviceni.com)

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

- Some of the information in the labour market profile is taken from sample surveys and so results are subject to sampling error. The nature of sampling variability is that the smaller the group whose size is being estimated the (proportionately) less precise that estimate is.
- Figures for people in employment include those aged 16 and over, who have completed at least one hours paid work in the reference week (either employed or self-employed).
- Figures for employee jobs do not include those who are self-employed.







people:skills:jobs:



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