

## LABOUR MARKET FACT SHEET - NORTHERN IRELAND

This fact sheet provides an overview of the labour market for Northern Ireland.

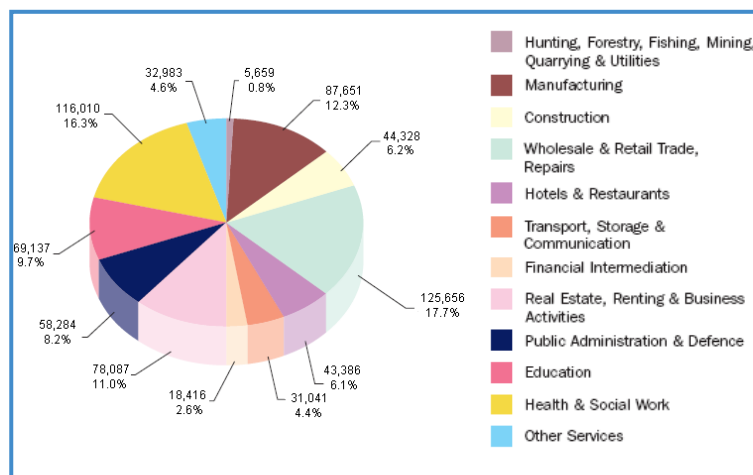
### OVERVIEW

There are currently 761,000 people in employment in Northern Ireland. The working age employment rate is 70.3%, the working age economic activity rate is 73.4% and the working age economic inactivity rate is 26.6%.<sup>1</sup> The claimant count rate is currently 4.2%.<sup>2</sup>

In 2007, the population of Northern Ireland was 1,759,148, with 49% being males (862,000) and 51% being females (897,148). The working age population in Northern Ireland was 1,089,389.<sup>3</sup>

### EMPLOYEE JOBS<sup>3</sup>

- In 2007, there were 710,638 employee jobs in Northern Ireland. This represented an increase of 27,584 (4.0%) since 2005.
- Almost one fifth of jobs were in Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repairs (17.7%), followed by 16.3% of jobs in Health and Social Work.
- In 2007, there were 18,416 employee jobs in Financial Intermediation, accounting for 2.6% of all employee jobs in Northern Ireland.



### FURTHER EDUCATION<sup>4</sup>

In 2007/08, the highest number of enrolments in Northern Ireland Further Education Colleges was in Education and Training courses (12.7%). There were less than 1% of enrolments in both Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care courses (0.6%) and History, Philosophy and Theology courses (0.4%).

### HIGHER EDUCATION<sup>5</sup>

In 2007/08, 17.0% of Northern Ireland domiciled students enrolled at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions were enrolled in Subjects allied to Medicine, whilst 14.4% were enrolled in Business and Administrative Studies. The lowest number of enrolments was in Mathematical Sciences (0.8%).

<sup>1</sup> Labour Force Survey Local Area Database 2007, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

<sup>2</sup> Claimant Count, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

<sup>3</sup> Census of Employment 2007. Figures for employee jobs do not include those who are self-employed.

<sup>4</sup> FESR

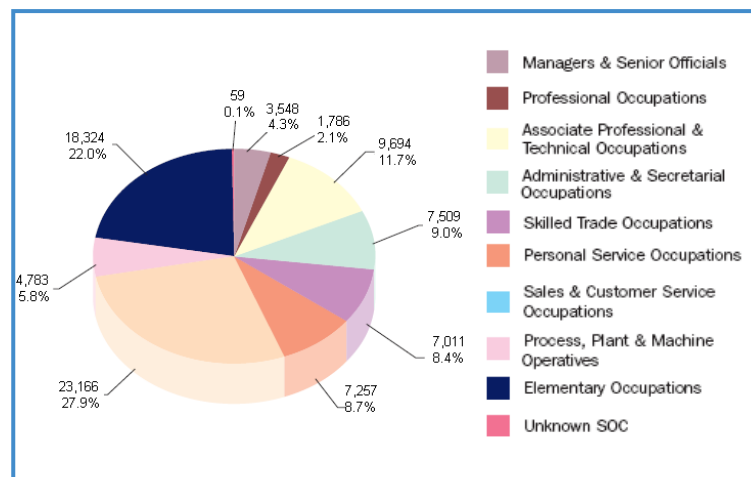
<sup>5</sup> HESA

## ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT DEMAND FOR OCCUPATIONS<sup>6</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. The key occupations that are expected to grow in Northern Ireland to 2015 include Sales (8,450 jobs per year) and Elementary Administration and Service (8,450 jobs per year). Occupations with lower levels of demand include Protective Service, Customer Service, Health Professionals, Culture, Media and Sports, Skilled Agricultural Trades and Science and Technology Associate Professionals.

## VACANCIES<sup>7</sup>

- In 2008, just over a quarter (27.9%) of all notified vacancies in Northern Ireland were in Sales and Customer Service Occupations while over a fifth (22.0%) were in Elementary Occupations.
- The smallest number of vacancies in 2008 were in Professional Occupations accounting for 2.1% of all vacancies.



## DID YOU KNOW THAT IN NORTHERN IRELAND...

- in 2007, females made up 51.7% of all employees<sup>3</sup>.
- two thirds (66.9%) of jobs were full-time in 2007<sup>3</sup>.
- in 2001, 15.8% of the population in 2001 had qualification Levels 4 and 5 (First degree and higher). 41.6% had no qualifications.<sup>8</sup>
- in 2008 there were 2,777 confirmed redundancies, an increase of 37% from 2007.<sup>9</sup>
- in 2007 there were a total of 58,135 VAT registered businesses. Of these 28.7% were in Agriculture followed by 15.8% in Construction.<sup>10</sup>

## USEFUL LINKS

JobCentre Online	Contains vacancies currently notified to Jobs and Benefits offices: <a href="http://www.jobcentreonline.com">www.jobcentreonline.com</a>
Careers Service Northern Ireland	Provides an impartial all age careers information, advice and guidance service: <a href="http://www.careersserviceni.com">www.careersserviceni.com</a>
Office for National Statistics	Official Labour Market Statistics for UK: <a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp">www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp</a>
Eures	The European Mobility Portal: <a href="http://www.europa.eu.int/eures/home.jsp">www.europa.eu.int/eures/home.jsp</a>
Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment	Economic and Labour Market statistics for NI: <a href="http://www.detini.gov.uk/cgi-bin/gethome">www.detini.gov.uk/cgi-bin/gethome</a>

Information provided by the Department for Employment and Learning. Last Updated: April 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Information supplied by Nick Rogers of the Economic Development Policy Unit of North Down Borough Council.

<sup>7</sup> Client Management System, Department for Employment and Learning

<sup>8</sup> Census 2001

<sup>9</sup> Redundancies, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

<sup>10</sup> Inter-departmental Business Register, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment