



## LABOUR MARKET FACT SHEET - SOUTHERN REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FORUM (WDF)

This fact sheet provides an overview of the labour market for the Southern Regional WDF in Northern Ireland. Southern Regional WDF comprises Newry and Mourne District Council, Armagh City and District Council, Craigavon Borough Council and Banbridge District Council. The content is based on official information sources.

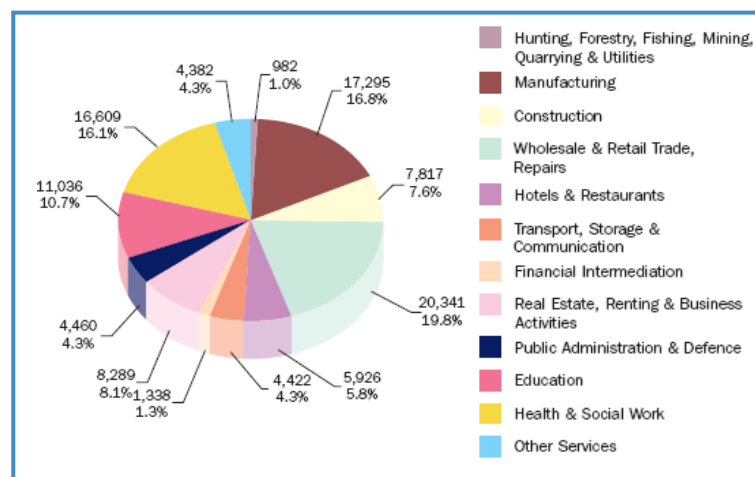
### OVERVIEW

There are currently 126,000 people employed in the Southern Regional WDF. The working age employment rate is 71.9%, the working age economic activity rate is 75.3% and the working age economic inactivity rate is 24.7%.<sup>1</sup> The claimant count rate is currently 3.9%.<sup>2</sup>

In 2007, the population of the Southern Regional WDF was 288,448, with 49.5% being males (142,653) and 50.5% being females (145,795). The working age population in the Southern Regional WDF was 178,079.<sup>3</sup>

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

- In the Southern Regional WDF, there were 102,897 employee jobs in 2007. This represented an increase of 6,230 (6.4%) since 2005.
- Almost one fifth of jobs were in Wholesale and Retail Trade (19.8%), Repairs followed by 16.8% in Manufacturing.
- Financial Intermediation accounted for only 1,338 jobs in the Southern Regional WDF in 2007.



### 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. The key occupations that are expected to grow in the Southern Regional WDF to 2015 include Sales (1,250 jobs per year), Elementary Administration and Service (1,100 jobs per year), Administrative (900 jobs per year) and Caring Personal Service (800 jobs per year). Occupations with lower levels of demand include Protective Service, Health Professionals, Customer Service, Culture, Media and Sports and Science and Technology Associate Professionals.

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

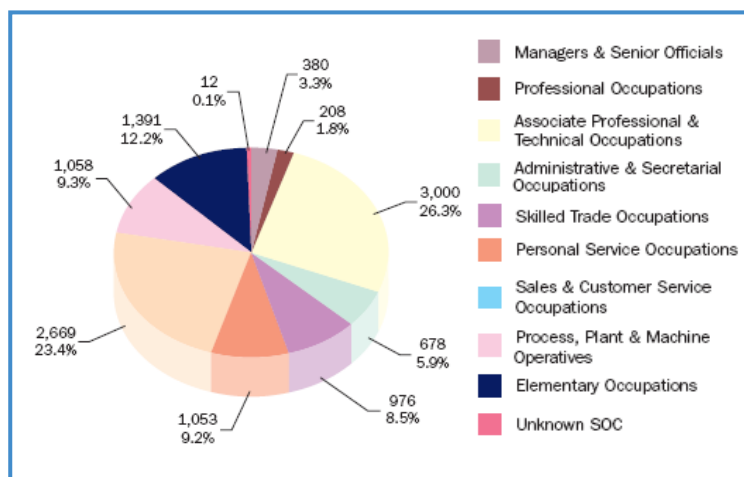
## FURTHER EDUCATION<sup>5</sup>

In 2007/08, 13.5% of enrolments at the Southern Regional College were in Preparation for Life and Work courses and 12.0% of enrolments were in Education and Training courses.

Only 2.0% of enrolments were in Social Science courses while eight enrolments (<0.1%) were in Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care courses. There were no enrolments in History, Philosophy and Theology courses.

## VACANCIES<sup>6</sup>

- Just over a quarter of all notified vacancies in the Southern Regional WDF in 2008 were in Associate Professional and Technical Occupations (26.3%), this was followed by 23.4% in Sales and Customer Service Occupations.
- The smallest number of vacancies in 2008 was in Professional Occupations accounting for 1.8% of all vacancies.



## DID YOU KNOW THAT IN THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL WDF...

- in 2007, females made up 53.0% of all employees<sup>3</sup>.
- almost two thirds (65.3%) of jobs were full-time in 2007<sup>3</sup>.
- in 2001, 13.5% of the population in 2001 had qualification Levels 4 and 5 (First degree and higher). 44.1% had no qualifications.<sup>7</sup>
- in 2008 there were 623 confirmed redundancies. This equates to 22.4% of the total number of redundancies in Northern Ireland in 2008.<sup>8</sup>
- in 2007 there were a total of 11,030 VAT registered businesses. Of these 31.0% were in Agriculture whilst 17.4% were in Construction.<sup>9</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>5</sup> FESR

<sup>6</sup> Client Management System, Department for Employment and Learning

<sup>7</sup> Census 2001

<sup>8</sup> Redundancies, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

<sup>9</sup> Inter-departmental Business Register, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment