Global Entrepreneurship Monitor

In partnership with NatWest

# Northern Ireland

## 2025/2026 Report



**Authors** Karen Bonner, Mark Hart and Neha Prashar

Ulster University Economic Policy Centre
Aston Business School BIRMINGHAM UK
wbs WARWICK BUSINESS SCHOOL
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are pleased once again to have NatWest sponsor the 2025 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor UK Report. As the UK's biggest supporter of small businesses, they understand the important role that start-ups, scale-ups and high-growth businesses play in a strong and prosperous UK economy.

Participation in the GEM Global project in 2025 by the UK consortium was again made possible by generous funding. In Northern Ireland, we owe an enormous debt to the Department for the Economy (NI). Entrepreneurship is a focus for the economy and is a long-standing challenge for Northern Ireland. Ongoing support for this annual survey of entrepreneurship provides an important additional contribution to the evidence base to inform the Department's delivery of its Economic Vision. Alongside the Department for the Economy (NI), participation is supported by funding from the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (DBIST), the Business Innovation Directorate, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government, and NatWest. These funders have supported the GEM UK project for almost all of the last 27 years and we owe them an enormous debt.

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# Main Findings

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) is an international project which seeks to provide information on the entrepreneurial landscape of 53 countries in 2025. This is essential as many studies have shown that entrepreneurship is an important driver of economic growth, competitiveness and job creation.

The results of the GEM data analysis are used as key entrepreneurial benchmarking indicators by regional and national authorities around the world. The sample size in NI in 2025 was 1,058 adults over 18 years of age.

- Levels of entrepreneurial activity are a vital sign of any economy, as it has been shown that the creation of new ventures is positively connected to the drivers of economic growth and productivity through increased innovation, competition and job creation.
- NI has historically lagged behind the rest of the UK in terms of enterprise start-up activity, and the GEM Global project tracks this through its unique annual survey which focuses on the measurement of new business formation at the level of the individual.
- The rate of total early-stage entrepreneurship (TEA) in NI in 2025 is at a record high of 11.9%, up from 10.2% in 2024. The 2025 figure is, however, statistically significantly lower than the UK rate of 16.8%, and the rate of 17.8% in England. But NI does compare favourably against Wales (11.1%), Scotland (11.7%) and other small-advanced economies such as Estonia (11.6%), Slovenia (7.1%) and Norway (8.9%).
- Pooling the data over the most recent three years (2023–25), to remove annual fluctuations, gives a TEA rate of 10.6% for NI. This rate, along with that in Scotland (10.4%) and Wales (11.1%), is significantly lower than the rate of 13.3% in England and 13.0% in the UK.
- Motivation to start a business can be varied and multi-faceted. In 2025, the main motivation to start a business in NI was "to build great wealth or a very high income", with 70% of entrepreneurs stating this as a motive. This was also the main stated motivation in the UK at 76%. The second highest motivation in NI at 67% was "to earn a living because jobs are scarce", closely followed by "to make a difference in the world" at 66%.
- Within NI over the most recent 2023–25 period, Derry City and Strabane and Fermanagh and Omagh had the highest TEA rates (at 16.2% each), and the former was statistically significantly higher than in Ards and North Down, which had a rate of 7.9%. Compared to the pre-pandemic 2017–19 period, and using rolling averages, Belfast and Derry City and Strabane were the only council areas to see a statistically significant increase in their TEA rates. Belfast's TEA rate rose from 4.4% to 12.0%, and Derry City and Strabane's rose from 5.1% to 16.5% over the period.
- The female TEA rate in NI in 2025 has remained elevated at 8.4%, just below the 2024 peak of 8.7%. The male rate in 2025 is 15.4%, the highest on record. As a result, the gap in TEA rate between males and females has widened in 2025.

- On average, female TEA rates over the 2023–25 period are around two-thirds the male TEA rate, although the ratios vary from 16.7% in Derry City and Strabane to around 120% in Fermanagh and Omagh. In fact, 2023–25 saw three councils: Causeway Coast and Glens, Newry, Mourne and Down, and Fermanagh and Omagh report higher female TEA rates than males. In all other council areas, excluding Derry City and Strabane and Ards and North Down, the female TEA rate is at least half the male rate.
- TEA rates tend to vary by age, with individuals in the UK aged between 25 and 34 typically having higher rates of early-stage entrepreneurial activity than other groups. In 2025, this was also the case in all home nations. In NI, the TEA rate was 16.2% for 25–34-year-olds, although this was followed closely by those aged 35–44 with a TEA rate of 15.2%.
- Similar to 2024, just over one third of the non-entrepreneurial working-age population perceive good start-up opportunities locally in NI in 2025, remaining well below the peak of 46.7% in 2021. The 2025 rate in NI is also below the UK rate of 41.5%.
- The share of individuals who recognise opportunities for start-up but also state their fear of failure would prevent them from doing so has stayed steady at 63.6% in 2025. In comparison, the UK figure has dropped from 58.2% in 2024 to 51.1%. In 2025, the difference between NI and the UK fear of failure rates is statistically significant.
- Looking to the future, the proportion of non-entrepreneurial working-age adults in NI in 2025 who expect to start a business within the next three years is 26.6%, up from 21.5% in 2024. Although a positive, it lags behind that for the UK, which has risen from 26.4% to 34.2% in 2025.
- Over 2023–25, around one in five early-stage business owners expect to achieve high growth, which is approaching the peak of 21.3% seen during 2019–2021. There has also been an upward trend in high-growth expectation for established business owners, reaching a peak of 14.3% in NI and 15.2% in the UK during 2023–25, rates which are now three times higher than during the initial 2003–05 period.
- Half of all nascent entrepreneurs in NI expect to self-fund their start-up (49.8%), higher than the UK figure of 44.7%. Of those expecting funding from elsewhere, funding from close family members is most favoured in NI, by around one third of nascent entrepreneurs, followed by funding from banks or other financial institutions (27.8%) and government programmes, donations or grants (25.1%).

# 1. Background

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) research consortium is an international project which tracks rates of entrepreneurship. It is the world's most authoritative comparative study of entrepreneurial activity in the general adult population and is based on the following premises. First, an economy's prosperity is highly dependent on a dynamic entrepreneurship sector. Second, an economy's entrepreneurial capacity is composed of individuals from all groups in society with the ability and motivation to start businesses and requires positive societal perceptions about entrepreneurship. Third, high-growth entrepreneurship is a key contributor to new employment in an economy, and national competitiveness depends on innovative and cross-border entrepreneurial ventures.

The results from the GEM data analysis are used as key benchmarking indicators by regional and national authorities around the world. They also enable comparisons to be made with the other regions of the UK and other countries participating in GEM. Overall, GEM's unique ability to provide information on the entrepreneurial landscape of countries in a global context makes the data a necessary resource for any serious attempt to study and track entrepreneurial behaviour.

It is important that we better understand the determinants of early-stage entrepreneurship because there is evidence to suggest a connection between higher rates of entrepreneurship and overall economic prosperity, particularly in innovation-driven economies like NI.

In 2025, the Department for the Economy sponsored the NI component of the GEM UK research project, as stimulating entrepreneurship remains an important challenge for the region. Of the approx. 390,000 respondents to GEM UK surveys for the period 2002–2025, around 48,000 respondents are from NI. The region now has a large longitudinal database on entrepreneurial attitudes, activity and aspirations. This is particularly useful in conducting trend analysis for important sub-populations in NI, such as females and young people, and enables comparisons to the other UK home nations.

# 2. How GEM Measures Entrepreneurial Activity

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) research consortium has been measuring the entrepreneurial activity of working-age adults across a wide range of countries in a comparable way since 1998. In 2025, GEM Global conducted surveys in 53 sovereign nations and represented the world's most authoritative comparative study of entrepreneurial activity in the general adult population. In previous years, a telephone survey of a random stratified sample of the adult population was conducted each year between May and September (the only difference was GEM 2020, which was conducted in Q4 of 2020 due to the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic). In a major departure in 2020, an online (CAWI) mode for respondents to complete was introduced, and this was provided alongside the traditional mode of CATI surveys. Using both approaches helped to ensure that the UK sample of approximately 10,000 respondents was maintained, providing data for the home nations as well as other important sub-groups of the population such as immigrants, ethnic minorities and women. The methodology, sample sizes and weighting systems used for the GEM UK 2025 adult population survey are explained in more detail in the GEM UK 2025 report.

GEM's primary focus is on the study of three areas:

- To measure differences in the level of entrepreneurial activity between countries.
- To uncover factors leading to appropriate levels of entrepreneurship.
- To suggest policies that may enhance the national level of entrepreneurial activity.

The 2025 GEM Global study was based on an analysis of adult population survey (APS) results from 53 economies which together represent around 77% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and two-thirds of the global population in 2025[1]. The core of the APS is identical in each country and asks respondents about their *attitudes* towards entrepreneurship; whether they are involved in some form of entrepreneurial activity, and if so, about their *aspirations* for their business. The global GEM Executive 2025/26 Report was published in February 2026[2] and can be downloaded from the GEM website.

1 Estimates based on World Bank data for GDP and populations.

2 GEM (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor) (2026). *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2025/2026 Global Report: From Uncertainty to Opportunity*. London: GEM.

From the APS survey, we examine individual entrepreneurs at three key stages:

- Nascent entrepreneurs (NAE): The stage at which individuals begin to commit resources, such as time or money, to starting a business. To qualify as a nascent entrepreneur, the business must not have been paying wages for more than three months.
- New business owner-managers (NBO): Those whose business has been paying income, such as salaries or drawings, for more than three, but not more than forty-two, months.
- Established business owner-managers (EBO): Those whose business has been paying income, such as salaries or drawings, for more than forty-two months.

In addition, we measure general intention to start a business by asking individuals if they expect to start a business within the next three years. Finally, we ask individuals if they have sold, shut down, discontinued or quit a business in the past year. It is important to understand that the main subject of study in GEM is entrepreneurs rather than the businesses that they run. GEM measures the entrepreneurial activity of people from intention to exit. The first two stages of active business development, the nascent entrepreneur stage[3] and the new business owner-manager stage[4], are combined into one index of Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity, or TEA[5], which is represented in Figure 2.1 opposite.

As much of this entrepreneurial activity is pre-start-up or includes very small new businesses that do not have to register, TEA rates will not necessarily match with published official statistics on business ownership and, indeed, should not be interpreted as such. Rather, GEM enables the measurement of the propensity of individuals in particular countries to be entrepreneurial given the current social, cultural and economic framework conditions that exist there.

The following report presents a summary of the headline results, and key themes arising from the GEM survey in 2025 and the analysis of the twenty-four years of GEM data (2002–25).

3 The active planning phase in which the entrepreneur has done something during the past 12 months to help start a new business, a new business that he/she will at least part own, and which has not paid wages or other income to the owners in the past 3 months.

4 The second phase is defined as from 4 to 42 months after the new venture begins to provide income to the owners. Entrepreneurs who at least part own and manage a new business that has been paying some form of income to the owners for at least 4 and not more than 42 months are referred to as new firm entrepreneurs.

5 TEA is calculated in an identical way in each country. A telephone and/or face-to-face survey of a representative sample of the adult population in each country is conducted between May and September. Respondents are asked to respond to three questions that are the basis of the TEA index: 1) “are you, alone or with others, currently trying to start a new business independently of your work?”, 2) “are you, alone or with others, currently trying to start a new business as part of your work?”, and 3) “are you, alone or with others, currently the owner or manager of a business?” Those who respond positively to these questions are also asked filter questions to ensure they are actively engaged in business creation as owners and managers, how long they have been paying wages to employees, and other questions about cost and time to start up, sources of finance and numbers of jobs created. A distinction is made between two types of entrepreneurs: nascent entrepreneurs (those whose businesses have been paying wages for not more than three months) and new business owner-managers (those whose businesses have been paying salaries for more than three months but not more than 42 months). The TEA index is the proportion of nascent entrepreneurs and new business owner/managers (minus any double counting, i.e. those who respond positively to both are counted once) in the working age population.

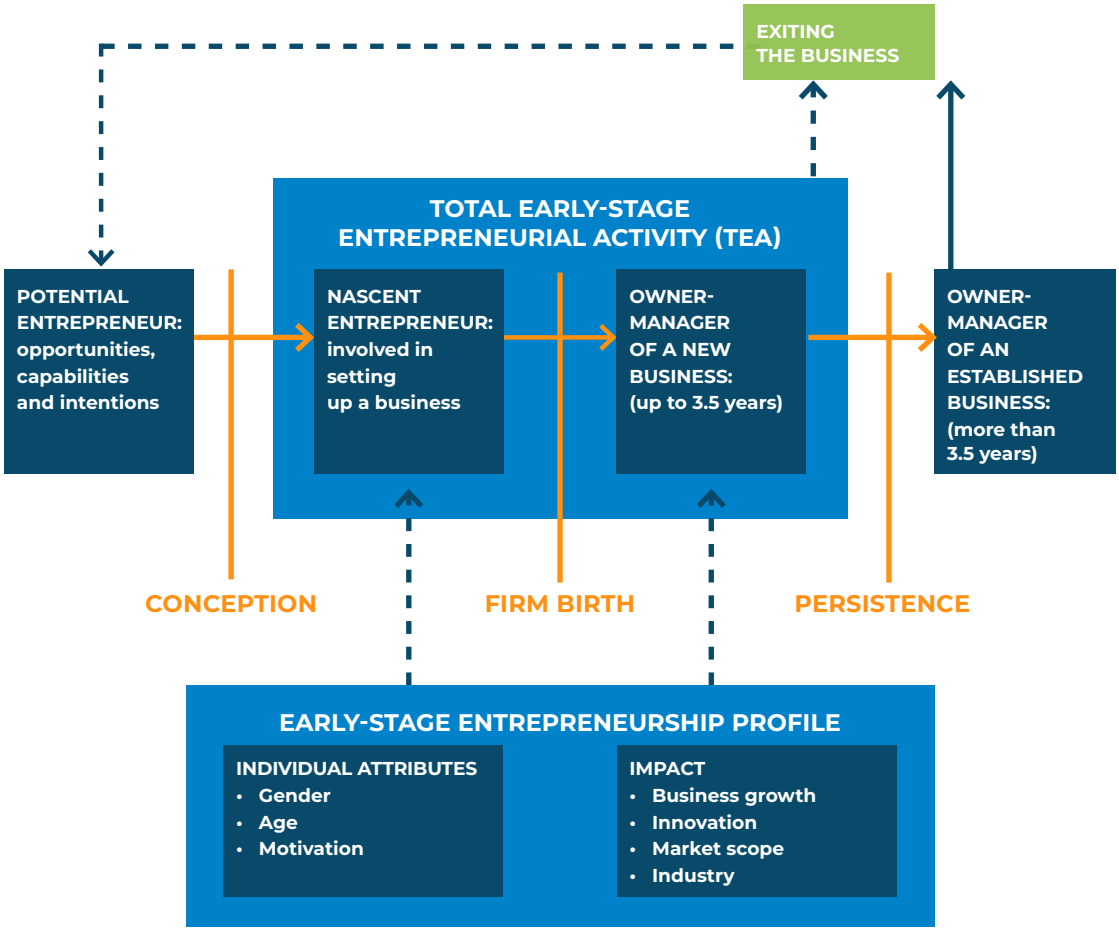



**FIGURE 2.1:**
The Entrepreneurial Process and GEM Operational Definitions

(Source: GEM (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor) (2026). Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2025/2026 Global Report: From Uncertainty to Opportunity. London: GEM, page 216)

# 3. Total Early-Stage Entrepreneurial Activity

Figure 3.1 shows the changes in TEA rate across the four UK nations over the 2023–2025 period. TEA rates have increased in the UK and all home nations over this period, with the exception of Wales, which has seen a slight drop. England has experienced the largest rise in its TEA rate, increasing by 7 percentage points alone between 2024–25, to 17.8% in 2025. This has subsequently driven the UK's rise to a record high TEA rate of 16.8% in 2025.

The TEA rate in NI has also continued its increase to reach its highest ever rate of 11.9% in 2025. Despite the increase, the TEA rate is statistically significantly lower than that of the UK. But NI compares well against the other home nations, now sitting slightly above that of Wales and Scotland. In 2025, it also compares favourably against the small-advanced economy of Estonia (11.6%) and exceeds that of Slovenia (7.1%) and Norway (8.9%) but lags those such as Lithuania (17.0%) and Latvia (13.2%).

In NI, as in the UK, just over half of all early-stage start-up activity was in Consumer Oriented[6] services. A further quarter in NI was in Business Services, lower than the UK share (28.1%). NI, however, had a higher share of entrepreneurial starts in Transforming sectors, at 23.7% compared to 19.6% in the UK.

Overall, the TEA rate of 11.9% in NI in 2025 equates to one in every eight adults aged 16–64, or approximately 141,600 individuals, engaged in early-stage entrepreneurial activity, around 64% of whom were in the very early stages of starting a business (nascent entrepreneurs: 7.6%) and the remainder those who had a new business which was between 3 and 42 months old (4.5%).

Pooling the data over the most recent three years (2023–25), to remove annual fluctuations, gives a TEA rate of 10.6% for NI compared to 10.4% in Scotland and 11.1% in Wales. All three are statistically significantly lower than the pooled TEA rate of 13.3% in England and 13.0% in the UK.

Figure 3.2 shows entrepreneurial activity in both the UK and NI since 2002. Although entrepreneurial activity within both has increased over time, particularly post-pandemic, a gap remains between the two. The gap is particularly pronounced in 2025, a difference of 5 percentage points, due to the sharp increase in the UK's TEA rate.

6 Consumer Oriented sectors include retail, accommodation and food, public admin, education, health, arts, and entertainment and other services. Business Services sectors include information and communication, finance and insurance, real estate, professional, scientific and technical activities, and business admin. Transforming sectors include manufacturing, electricity, gas and water, construction, wholesale, and transport and storage.

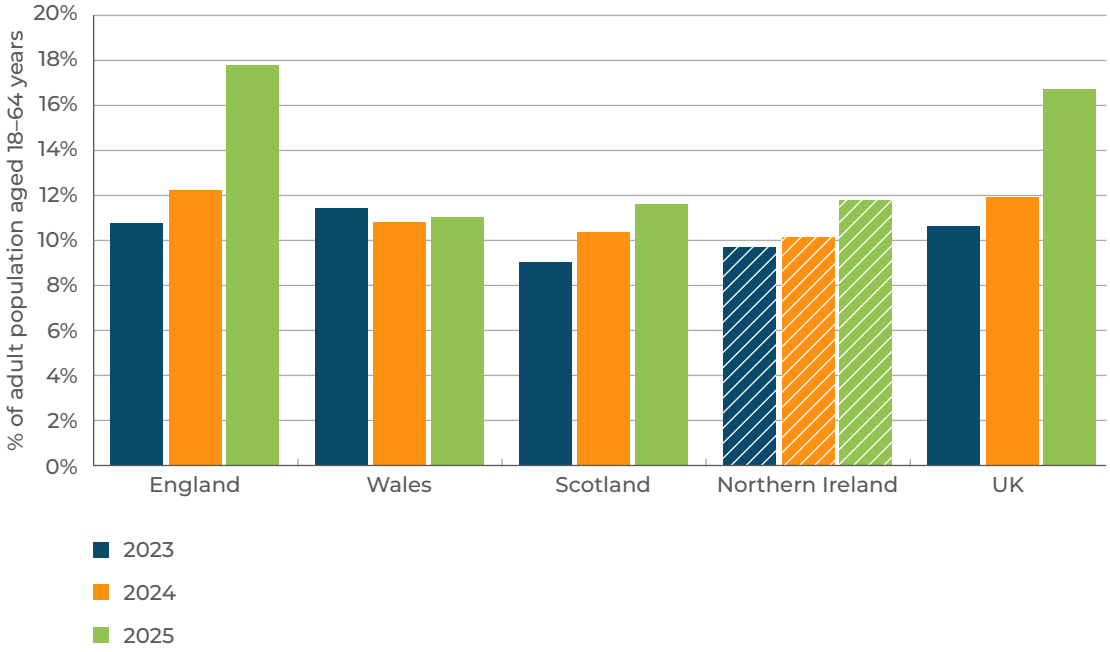



**FIGURE 3.1:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) in the UK Home Nations 2025

(Source: GEM APS)

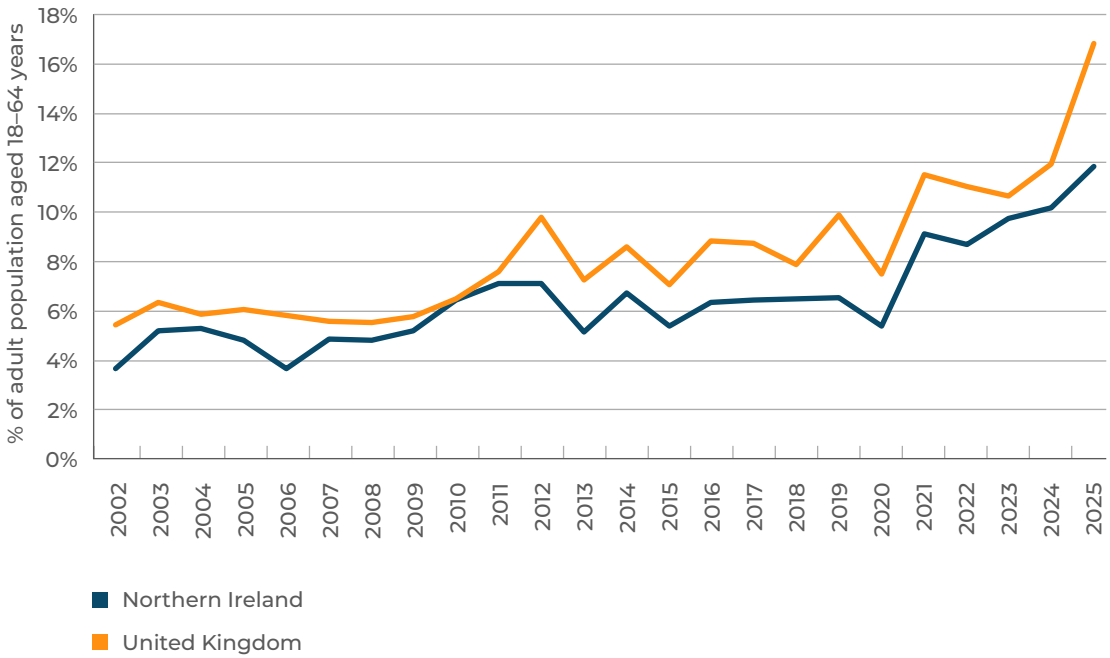



**FIGURE 3.2:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI and the UK 2002–2025

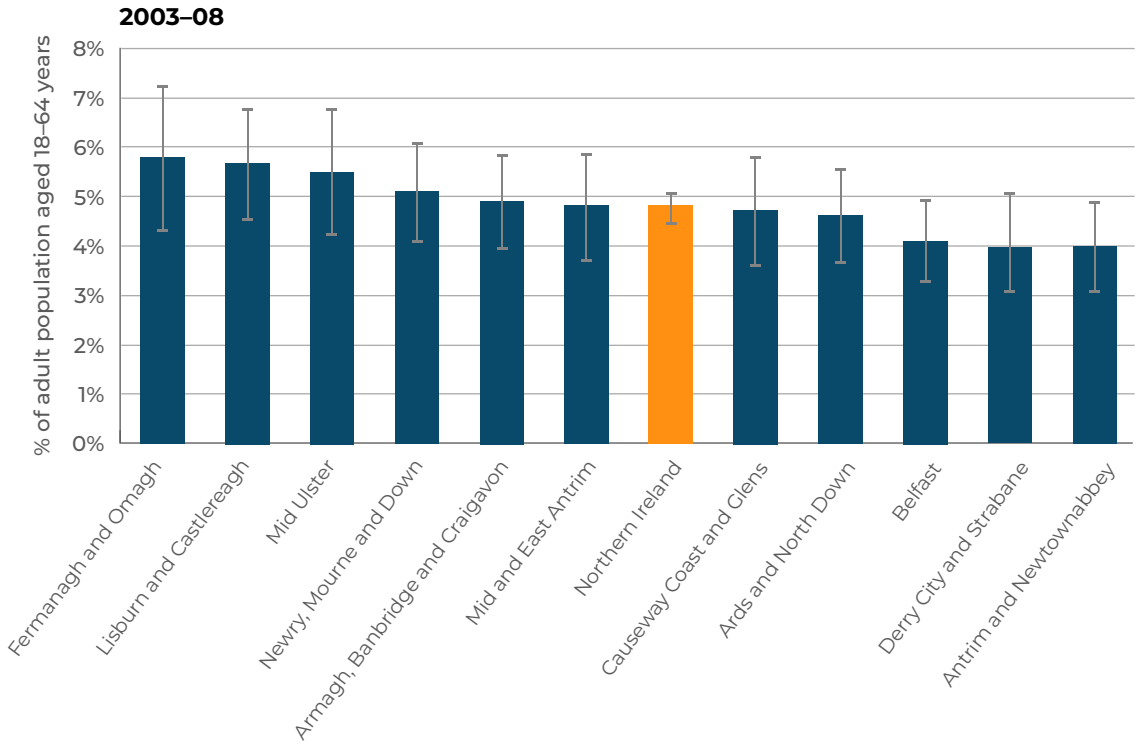
(Source: GEM APS)

Analysing annual TEA rates in NI Council areas can be problematic due to small sample sizes in localised areas. Pooled analysis over periods of time helps remove this variability by averaging out random annual fluctuations. Figures 3.3a and 3.3b present TEA rates over the 2003–08 and 2023–25 periods respectively (with the rates for the 2009–15, 2016–19 and 2020–22 periods shown in Appendix 1). During the 2003–08 period, there was little difference in the entrepreneurial activity rates across NI; although Fermanagh and Omagh had the highest rate at 5.8%, it was not statistically significantly different from the lowest rate of 4.0% in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Over time, there has been a divergence in the rates, although they have risen across all council areas. By 2023–25 (Figure 3.3b), Derry City and Strabane and Fermanagh and Omagh had the highest TEA rates, and the former was statistically significantly higher than in Ards and North Down, which had a rate of 7.9%. The largest increases in rates between 2003–08 and 2023–25 were in Derry City and Strabane (up 12.1 percentage points) and in Fermanagh and Omagh (up 10.4 percentage points). Mid Ulster saw the lowest increase with a 1.8 percentage point rise.

**FIGURE 3.3A:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI in 2003–2008 by Council Area, with 95% confidence intervals[7]

(Source: GEM APS)




7 Confidence intervals for a mean specify a range of values within which the unknown population mean may lie. At the 95% level, we are 95% confident that the interval contains the true population mean.

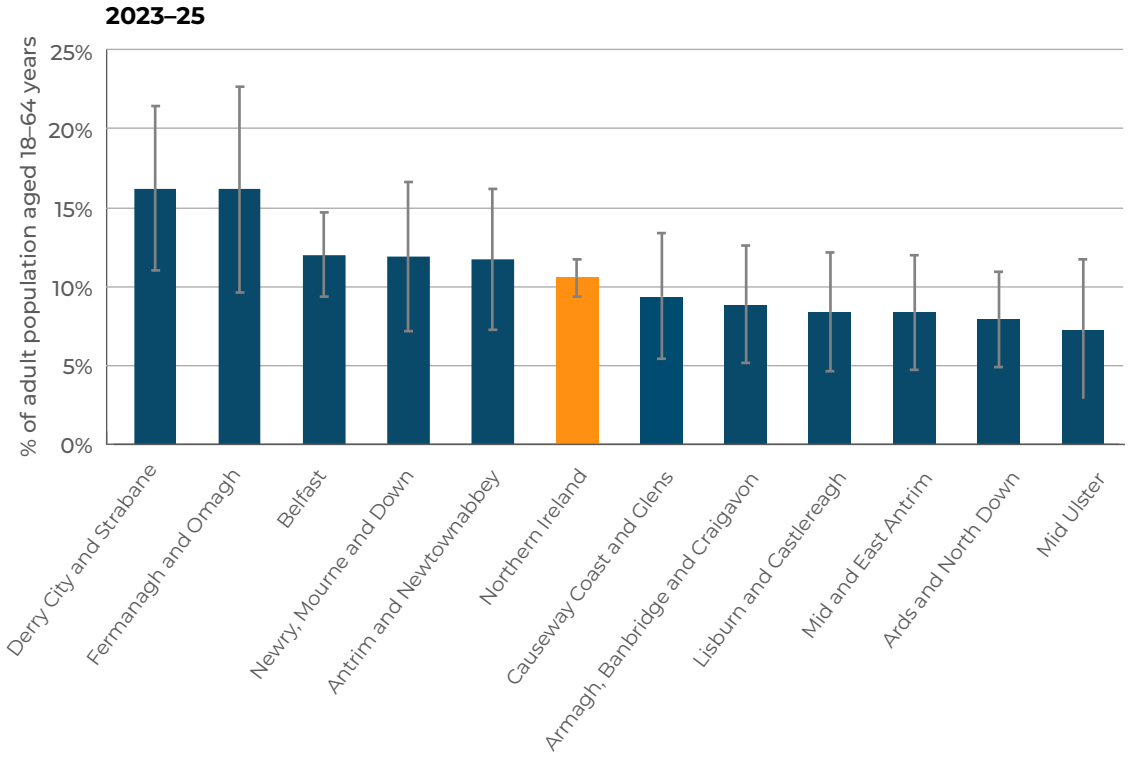



**FIGURE 3.3B:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI in 2023–2025 by Council Area, with 95% confidence intervals

(Source: GEM APS)

Table 3.1 displays the trend by Council area using 3-year rolling averages, rather than combined data, from 2002–04 to 2023–25[8]. There was little variation in entrepreneurial activity rates across Council areas in the decade to 2010, with rates diverging more so thereafter. Most recently, over 2023–25, Derry City and Strabane had the highest average TEA rate at 16.5%, which was statistically significantly higher than the rate in Ards and North Down (8.0%).

Compared to the pre-pandemic 2017–19 period, Belfast and Derry City and Strabane were the only council areas to see a statistically significant increase in their TEA rate. Belfast's TEA rate rose from 4.4% to 12.0% and Derry City and Strabane's rose from 5.1% to 16.5% over the period.

8 Confidence intervals for Table 3.1 are shown in Table A3 in Appendix One.

**TABLE 3.1:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI by Council Area, rolling averages 2002–04 to 2023–25

(Source: GEM APS)

| | 2002–04 | 2003–05 | 2004–06 | 2005–07 | 2006–08 | 2007–09 | 2008–10 | 2009–11 | 2010–12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Antrim and Newtownabbey | 5.4% | 3.9% | 3.8% | 3.2% | 4.8% | 5.1% | 6.5% | 6.1% | 6.9% |
| Ards and North Down | 4.5% | 4.6% | 4.6% | 4.7% | 4.6% | 6.1% | 7.3% | 7.0% | 6.6% |
| Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon | 4.4% | 5.2% | 4.2% | 5.0% | 4.6% | 5.6% | 6.6% | 7.8% | 11.0% |
| Belfast City | 3.6% | 4.4% | 3.8% | 3.9% | 4.2% | 4.3% | 4.4% | 4.6% | 4.7% |
| Causeway Coast and Glens | 3.7% | 4.9% | 3.9% | 4.6% | 3.9% | 4.3% | 3.9% | 5.6% | 6.4% |
| Derry City and Strabane | 5.7% | 4.8% | 4.3% | 4.0% | 3.0% | 3.5% | 2.9% | 3.5% | 4.5% |
| Fermanagh and Omagh | 4.5% | 6.1% | 5.7% | 5.4% | 4.9% | 5.6% | 4.9% | 6.9% | 4.5% |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh | 4.1% | 5.8% | 4.8% | 5.4% | 6.1% | 6.3% | 6.0% | 7.0% | 6.6% |
| Mid Ulster | 5.6% | 6.6% | 6.5% | 4.5% | 4.4% | 4.6% | 6.8% | 7.8% | 9.8% |
| Mid and East Antrim | 6.3% | 5.2% | 4.3% | 4.9% | 4.4% | 5.1% | 4.5% | 5.9% | 5.8% |
| Newry, Mourne and Down | 5.4% | 5.4% | 5.2% | 4.4% | 5.3% | 4.9% | 6.0% | 6.7% | 8.1% |
| **NI** | **4.7%** | **5.1%** | **4.6%** | **4.5%** | **4.5%** | **5.0%** | **5.5%** | **6.3%** | **6.9%** |

| 2011 –13 | 2012 –14 | 2013 –15 | 2014 –16 | 2015 –17 | 2016 –18 | 2017 –19 | 2018 –20 | 2019 –21 | 2020 –22 | 2021 –23 | 2022 –24 | 2023 –25 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5.4% | 4.8% | 4.2% | 4.7% | 5.3% | 4.8% | 6.3% | 5.1% | 5.7% | 4.9% | 6.9% | 9.9% | 12.1% |
| 5.4% | 7.0% | 5.6% | 6.7% | 5.4% | 6.0% | 5.5% | 5.8% | 9.3% | 12.4% | 13.0% | 10.5% | 8.0% |
| 10.4% | 9.4% | 5.4% | 4.5% | 5.8% | 7.7% | 6.6% | 5.3% | 4.8% | 6.1% | 5.9% | 6.3% | 8.9% |
| 4.6% | 4.5% | 4.7% | 5.3% | 5.7% | 5.5% | 4.4% | 4.5% | 6.5% | 9.3% | 11.8% | 12.1% | 12.0% |
| 5.9% | 5.9% | 5.8% | 6.4% | 5.8% | 5.1% | 6.8% | 8.0% | 7.9% | 6.7% | 5.6% | 7.5% | 9.7% |
| 5.1% | 6.1% | 3.7% | 4.2% | 3.3% | 6.8% | 5.1% | 5.3% | 4.2% | 7.5% | 11.4% | 12.5% | 16.5% |
| 4.1% | 2.4% | 5.9% | 7.6% | 6.4% | 4.0% | 6.6% | 8.0% | 9.8% | 7.7% | 8.3% | 11.5% | 16.3% |
| 5.8% | 4.2% | 5.8% | 6.4% | 6.0% | 6.0% | 7.1% | 6.2% | 7.5% | 7.1% | 9.8% | 8.7% | 8.3% |
| 9.1% | 10.6% | 9.6% | 9.0% | 9.3% | 8.0% | 8.2% | 4.6% | 8.7% | 7.5% | 9.7% | 5.7% | 7.3% |
| 6.6% | 6.2% | 8.0% | 8.7% | 10.5% | 10.2% | 10.6% | 10.1% | 9.3% | 9.4% | 8.5% | 8.8% | 8.4% |
| 7.3% | 6.5% | 7.1% | 7.9% | 6.7% | 6.9% | 6.5% | 6.0% | 3.9% | 2.8% | 6.0% | 8.5% | 11.7% |
| **6.5%** | **6.3%** | **5.8%** | **6.2%** | **6.1%** | **6.4%** | **6.5%** | **6.1%** | **7.0%** | **7.7%** | **9.2%** | **9.5%** | **10.6%** |

Motivation to start a business can be varied and more multi-faceted than the previous opportunity and necessity measures revealed. As a result, since 2019, a new and improved method of measuring motivation to start a business was introduced, comprising four main categories. They are: (i) to make a difference in the world; (ii) to build great wealth or a very high income; (iii) to continue a family tradition; or (iv) to earn a living because jobs are scarce. The former two can be thought of as more opportunity driven, while the third is more complex as this could be both due to opportunity and necessity. The final option can be thought of as more necessity driven.

**FIGURE 3.4:** Motivation for Early-stage Entrepreneurship in NI and the UK 2025

(Source: GEM APS)

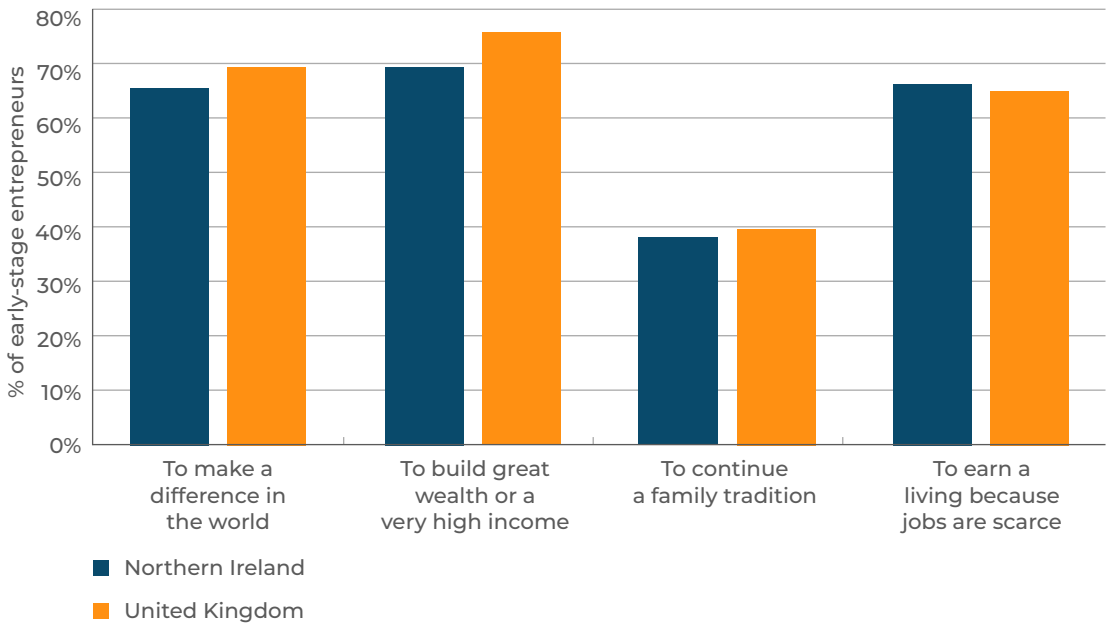



Figure 3.4 shows that in 2025 the main motivation to start a business in NI was "to build great wealth or a very high income", with 70% of entrepreneurs stating this as a motive. This was also the main stated motivation in the UK at 76%. This driving factor was different in NI relative to 2024, whereby the main motivation then was "to earn a living because jobs are scarce". Instead, in 2025, this was the second highest motivation in NI at 67%, followed by "to make a difference in the world", at 66%. In the UK making a difference was more important, with 70% citing this motive and 65% indicating it was due to job scarcity. In both NI and the UK, the shares motivated by "making a difference in the world" have increased since 2024. Starting a business "to continue a family tradition" was again the least motivating factor and was significantly lower than all other reasons.

# 4. Who are the Entrepreneurs in NI?

## 4.1 GENDER

In 2025, males in NI have a higher TEA rate than females at 15.4% compared to 8.4%, which is a statistically significant difference. A similar trend of higher male entrepreneurship can be found for all other nations in the UK (Figure 4.1), but with statistically significant differences in the male and female rates found only in England and the UK.

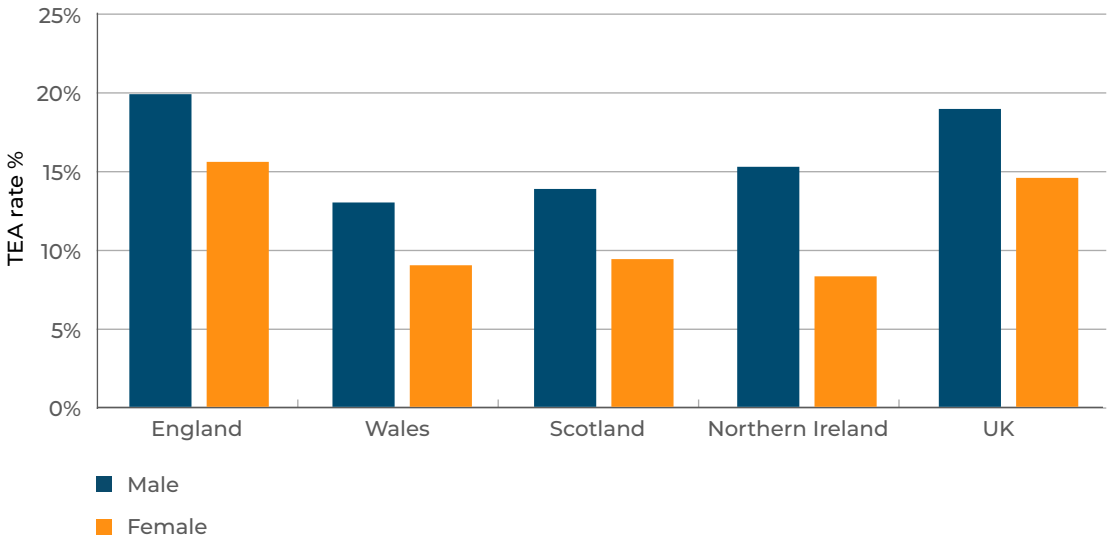



**FIGURE 4.1:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in the UK Home Nations in 2025

(Source: GEM APS)

Beyond differences in rates of entrepreneurial activity, men and women also tend to start businesses in different sectors. In NI in 2025, 59.0% of female TEA entrepreneurs were in Consumer Oriented sectors, 29% were in Business Services and 12% in Transforming sectors. Although male TEA entrepreneurs were also most likely to be in Consumer Oriented sectors, the share was lower (45.5%), while almost one third were in Transforming sectors (31.5%) and the remaining 23.0% in Business Services.

NI's female TEA rate of 8.4% in 2025 was down marginally from 8.7% in 2024. Compared to those other small-advanced economies that have similar overall TEA rates, NI is on par with Croatia, where the female TEA rate is 8.5% (with an overall TEA of 11.6%). But the relative share of female TEA entrepreneurs in NI is lower than in Estonia, where the female rate is 10.1% (with an overall TEA of 11.6%), and in the Slovak Republic, where the female rate is 10.0% (with an overall TEA of 11.4%).

The TEA rate for females in NI had been continuously rising since 2018, when it was 3.2%, to a high of 8.7% in 2024. The figure has dropped slightly in 2025, and combined with the larger increase in the male rate (from 11.8% in 2024 to 15.4% in 2025) saw a widening of the gap between male and female entrepreneurial activity.

Over the year, there was an increase in male TEA rates across the four UK home nations, with the largest increase in England (from 14.6% to 20.0%) followed by NI. The male TEA rates in Wales and Scotland increased by just 1 percentage point each. In contrast, there was a mixed picture in the female TEA rates. The highest increase was in England, with a rise from 10.0% in 2024 to 15.7% in 2025. Scotland's female TEA rate increased by 1 percentage point, Wales fell by just under 1 percentage point, while in NI it fell marginally by 0.3 of a percentage point.

For the UK as a whole, the TEA rate translates into a female-to-male early-stage entrepreneurship ratio of 77% in 2025. England had the highest ratio (79%), while NI had the lowest at 54%, a reversal of the 2024 position in which it was second highest with a rate of 74%.

Annual ratios in female to male entrepreneurial activity can vary; for example previous ratios for the UK have been around 50%, with twice as many male entrepreneurs as females. Using the long-run average ratios from 2002–25, to get a longer perspective, suggests a ratio of 46% in NI compared to 56% in England, 61% in Wales and 58% in Scotland. The significantly lower female-to-male ratio in NI over the long term is due to historically lower female TEA rates compared to males. NI's female TEA rate for the whole period 2002–25 has averaged around 4.2% compared to a male rate of 8.9%. In the UK, the equivalents are 6.1% and 10.5%, respectively.

Comparing the female TEA rate in NI to that in the UK over the long term shows a long-standing gap (Figure 4.2). In recent years, this had been at its widest in 2019 but had narrowed to around 1 percentage point in 2024. By 2025, the gap between the two was at its largest, at 6 percentage points, driven primarily by the large jump in the UK female TEA rate from 9.8% in 2024 to 14.7% in 2025.

Figure 4.3 shows TEA rates for males and females by Council area over the 2023–25 period combined. The male rates are plotted in descending order. Males in Derry City and Strabane have the highest TEA rate over the period, which at 26.5% is statistically significantly higher than the males' rates in Causeway Coast and Glens, Mid and East Antrim and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon councils.

There is no correlation between the entrepreneurial activity rates of males and females, in that those areas with the highest male rates do not also have the highest female rates. Over 2023–25, the highest female TEA rate is in Fermanagh and Omagh council area, although this is not significantly higher than the lowest female rate, which is in Derry City and Strabane.

On average, female TEA rates over the 2023–25 period are around two thirds the male TEA rate, although the ratios vary from 16.7% in Derry City and Strabane to around 120% in Fermanagh and Omagh. In fact, 2023–25 saw three councils: Causeway Coast and Glens, Newry, Mourne and Down, and Fermanagh and Omagh report higher female TEA rates than males. In all other council areas, excluding Derry City and Strabane and Ards and North Down, the female TEA rate is at least half the male rate.

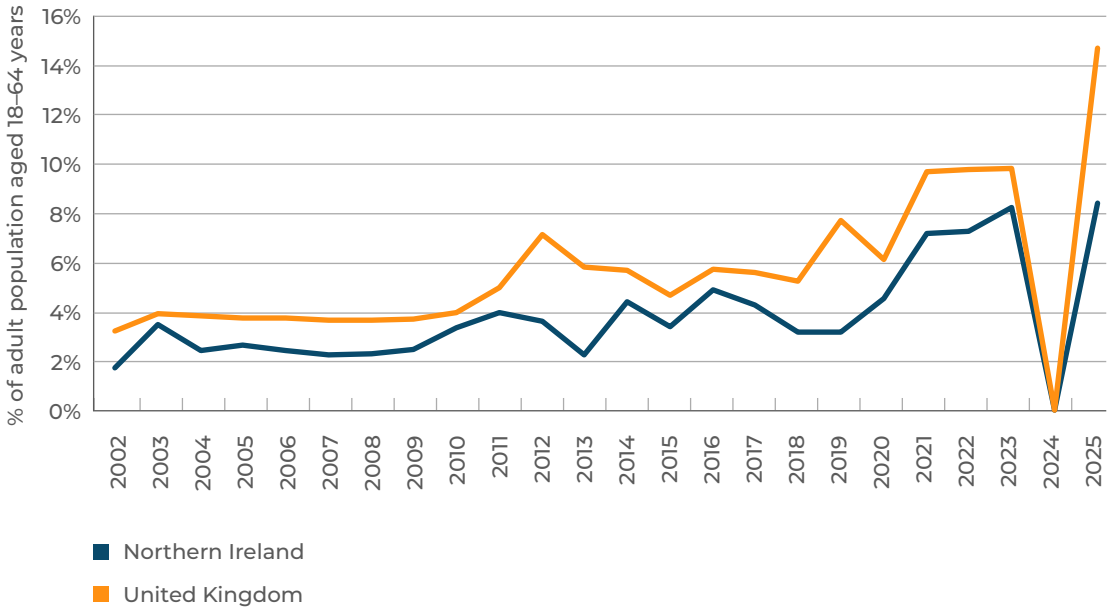



**FIGURE 4.2:** Total early-stage Female Entrepreneurial Activity in NI and the UK, 2002–2025

(Source: GEM APS)

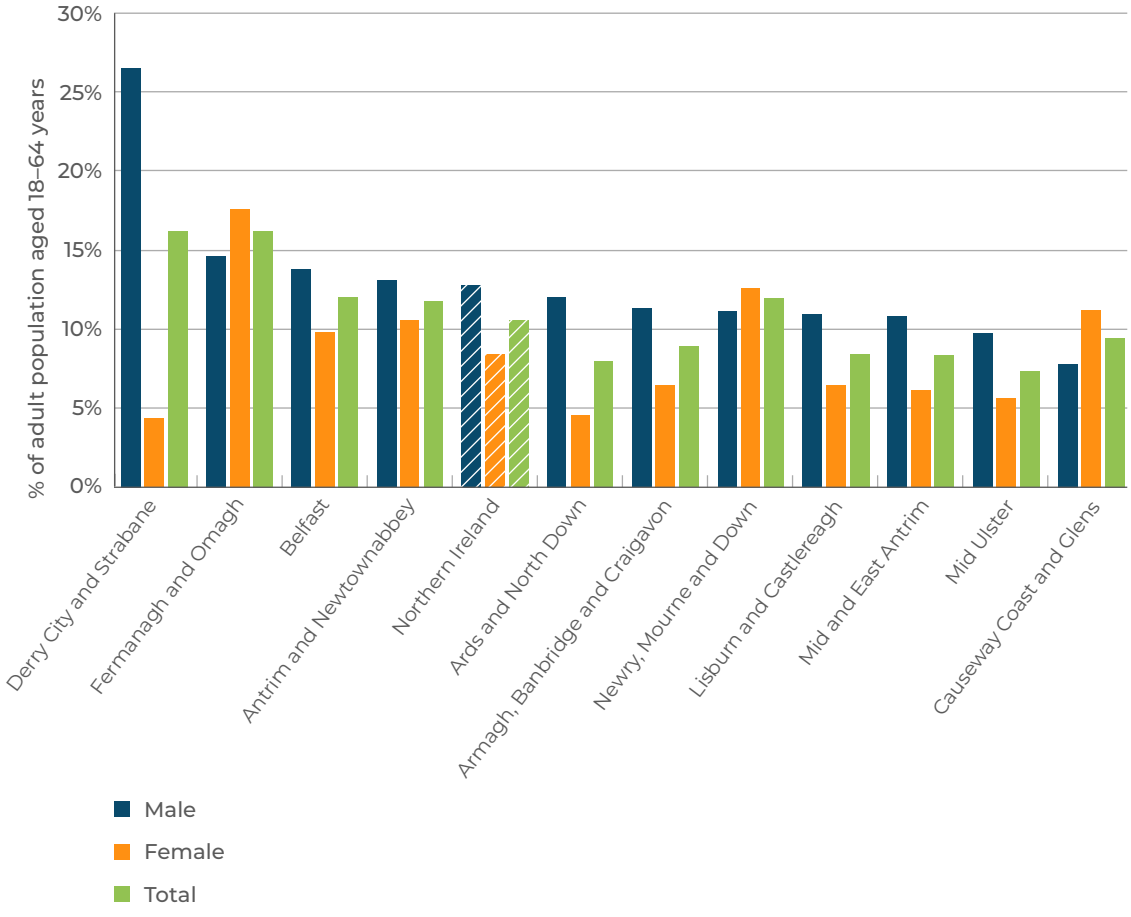



**FIGURE 4.3:** Total early-stage Male and Female Entrepreneurial Activity in NI by Council Area, combined over 2023–25

(Source: GEM APS)

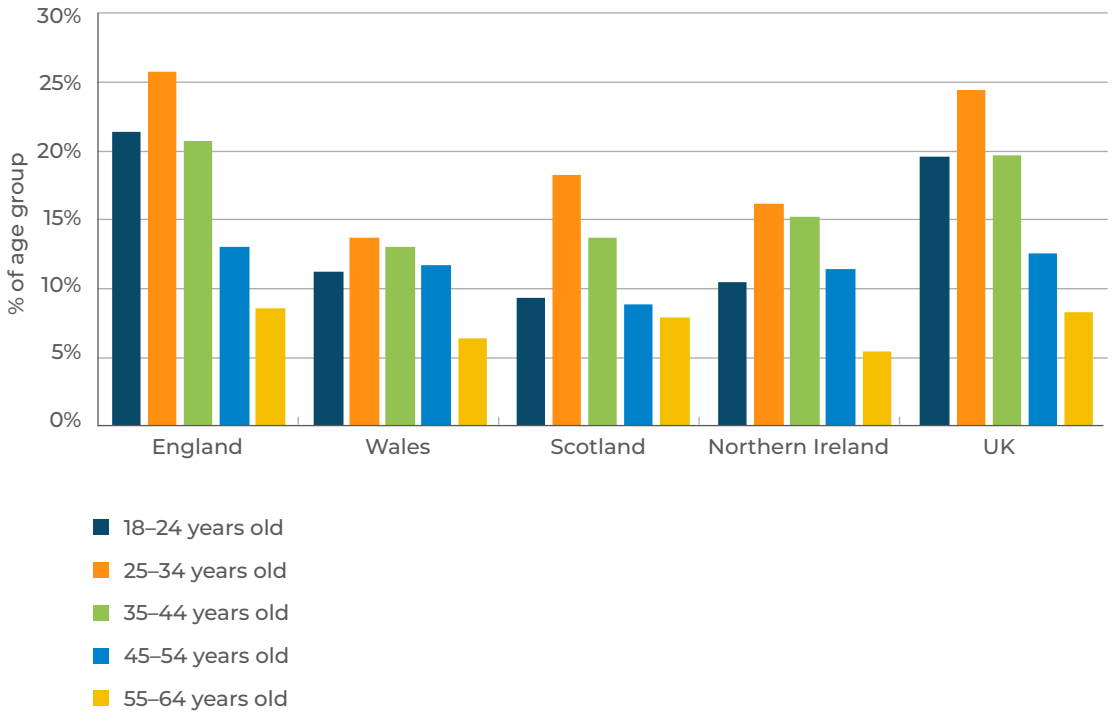
## 4.2 AGE

Figure 4.4 shows TEA rates by age in 2025. In the UK, individuals aged between 25 and 34 typically have higher rates of early-stage entrepreneurial activity than other age groups. In 2025, this was also the case in all home nations. In NI, the TEA rate was 16.2% for 25–34 year olds, although this was followed closely by those aged 35–44 with a TEA rate of 15.2%.

TEA rates for younger people aged 18–24 also remained strong, particularly in England, with a rate around 20%, and similar for the UK. In NI, the TEA rate for this age group was down on 2024 and was back to its 2022 rate, but at 10.5% exceeded the rate in Scotland.

**FIGURE 4.4:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in the UK Home Nations 2025

(Source: GEM APS)




An alternative analysis by age is to assess how the TEA rate has changed in the 18 to 29 age group over time compared to the 30 to 64 age group. Figures 4.5 and 4.6 show that for both age groups, rates in England continue to drive UK trends, creating a divergence from the other home nations. For 18–29-year-olds this is particularly evident post-pandemic.

Figure 4.5 shows that although there has been a general upward trend for the 18–29 age group in NI, the rates have flattened over recent years, broadly in line with Scotland and Wales. There has, however, been a more consistent increase in the rates for the 30–64 age group. The gap which opened between England and the other home nations continues to widen, with NI's rate of 10.1% sitting between that of Scotland (9.7%) and Wales (10.6%) but lagging the figure of 12.4% for England and 12.0% for the UK.

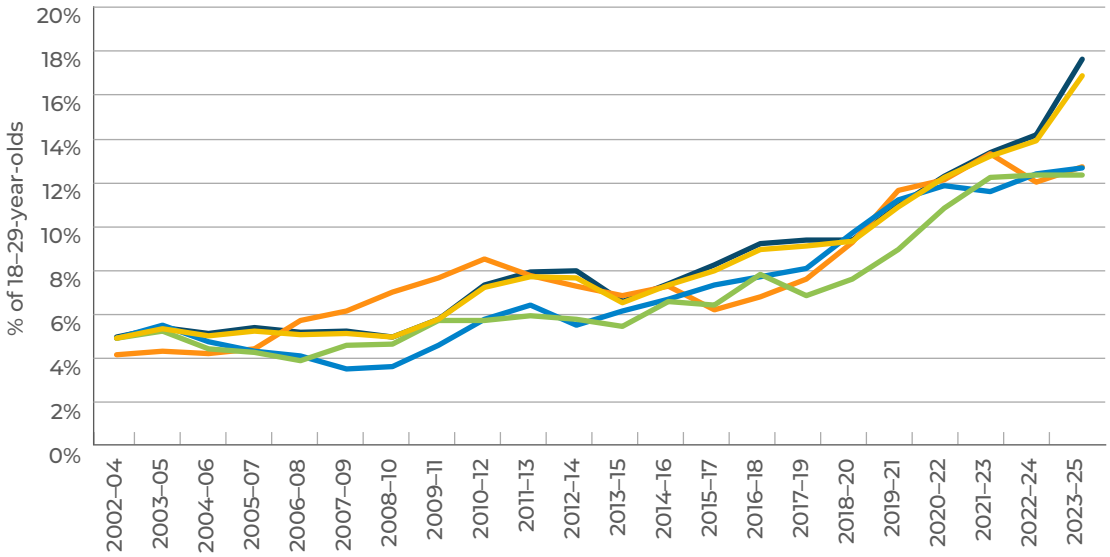



**FIGURE 4.5:** Trend in Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in the UK Home Nations for 18–29-year-olds, rolling averages 2002–04 to 2023–25

(Source: GEM APS)

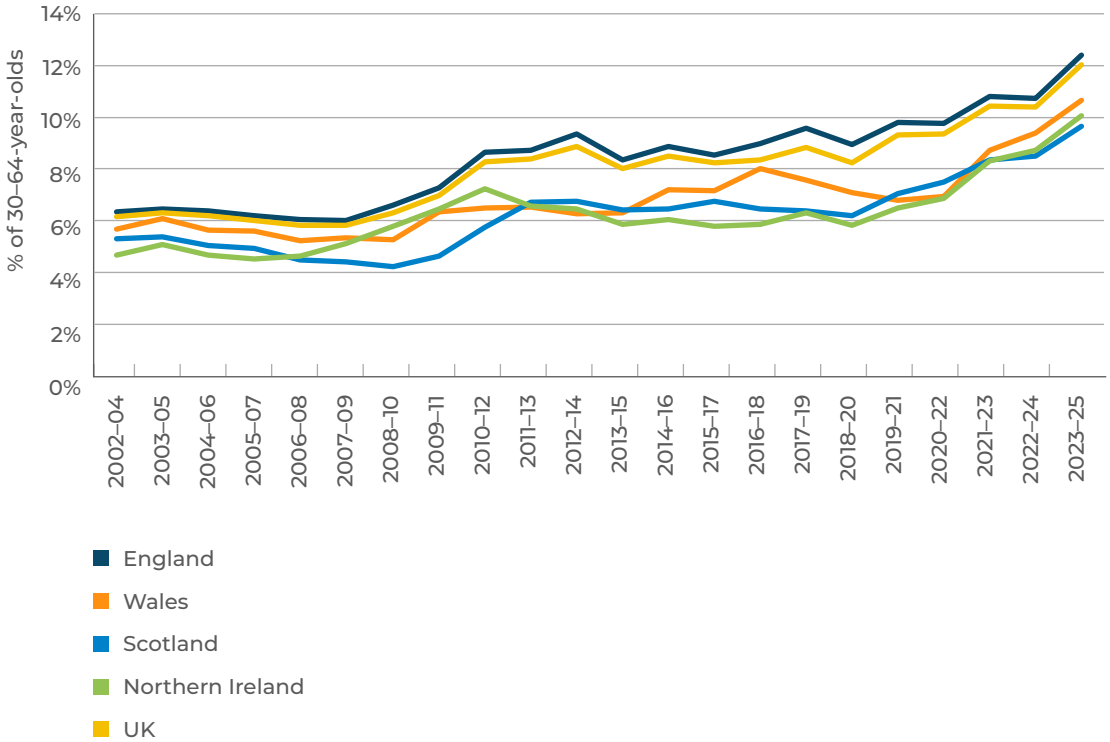


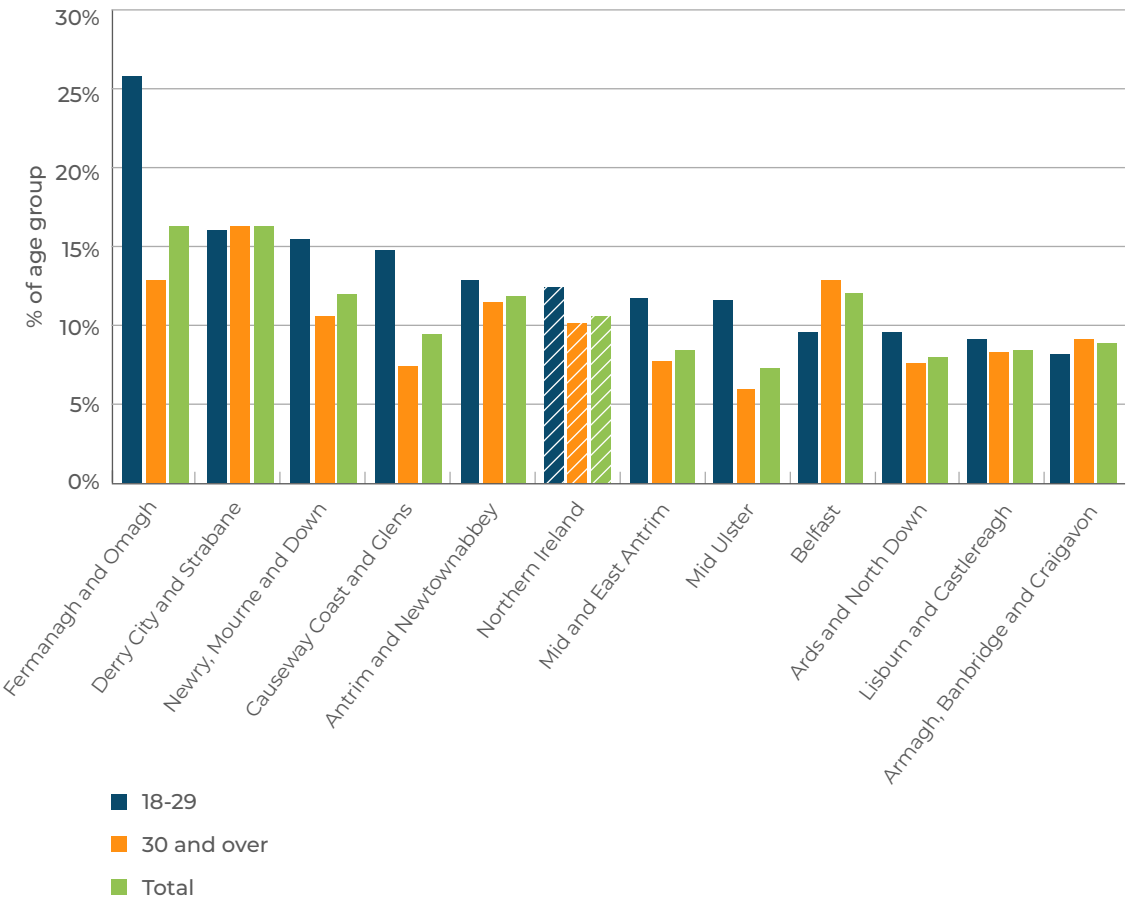

**FIGURE 4.6:** Trend in Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in the UK Home Nations for 30–64-year-olds, rolling averages 2002–04 to 2023–25

(Source: GEM APS)

Total early-stage entrepreneurial activity by these broader age groups is plotted in Figure 4.7 for the Council areas combined over 2023–25. For NI as a whole, the TEA rate for the older group (aged 30 and over), at 10.0%, is four-fifths of the rate for 18–29-year-olds, at 12.4%. Figure 4.7 plots the series in descending order for 18–29-year-olds, where the highest rate of 25.8% can be seen for Fermanagh and Omagh. Despite the wide variation in the rates for those aged 18–29, the differences between council areas are not statistically significant. This is also the case for those aged 30 years and above.

**FIGURE 4.7:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI by Age and Council Area, combined over 2023–25

(Source: GEM APS)



## 4.3 EDUCATION

The rate of total early-stage entrepreneurial activity for those educated to graduate degree level or above is 23.1% in the UK in 2025 (Figure 4.8), statistically significantly higher than for non-graduates (10.6%). This is also the case for all home nations, whereby the TEA rates for those educated to graduate level is statistically significantly higher than those at non-graduate level, and is around twice the rate. In NI, the graduate-level TEA rate has risen from 11.7% in 2024 to 16.3% in 2025. The rate for those at non-graduate level, however, has fallen from 8.8% in 2024 to 8.0% in 2025.

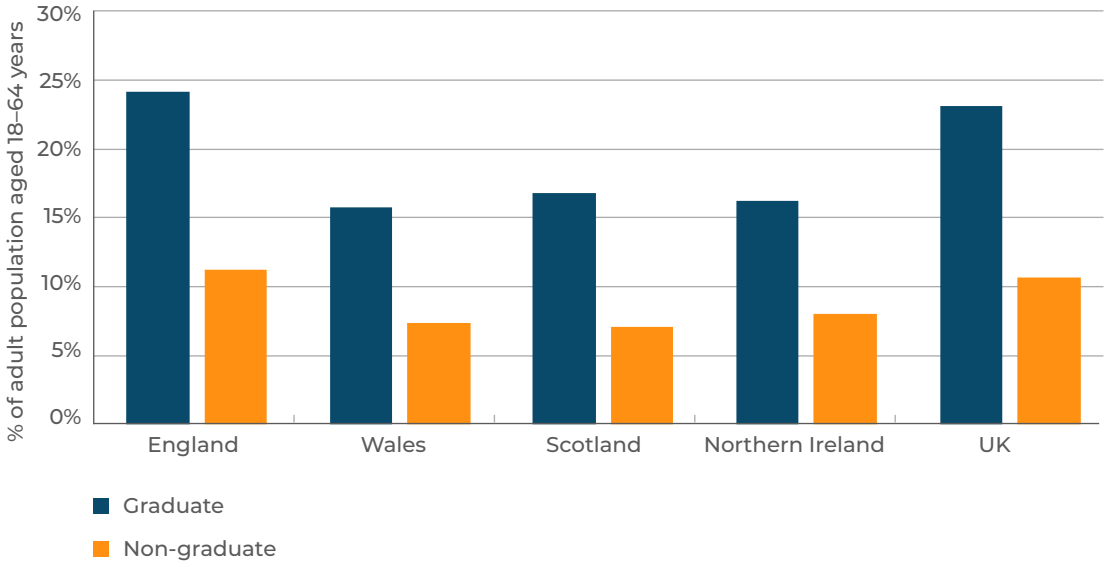



**FIGURE 4.8:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in the UK Home Nations by Graduate Status, 2025

(Source: GEM APS)

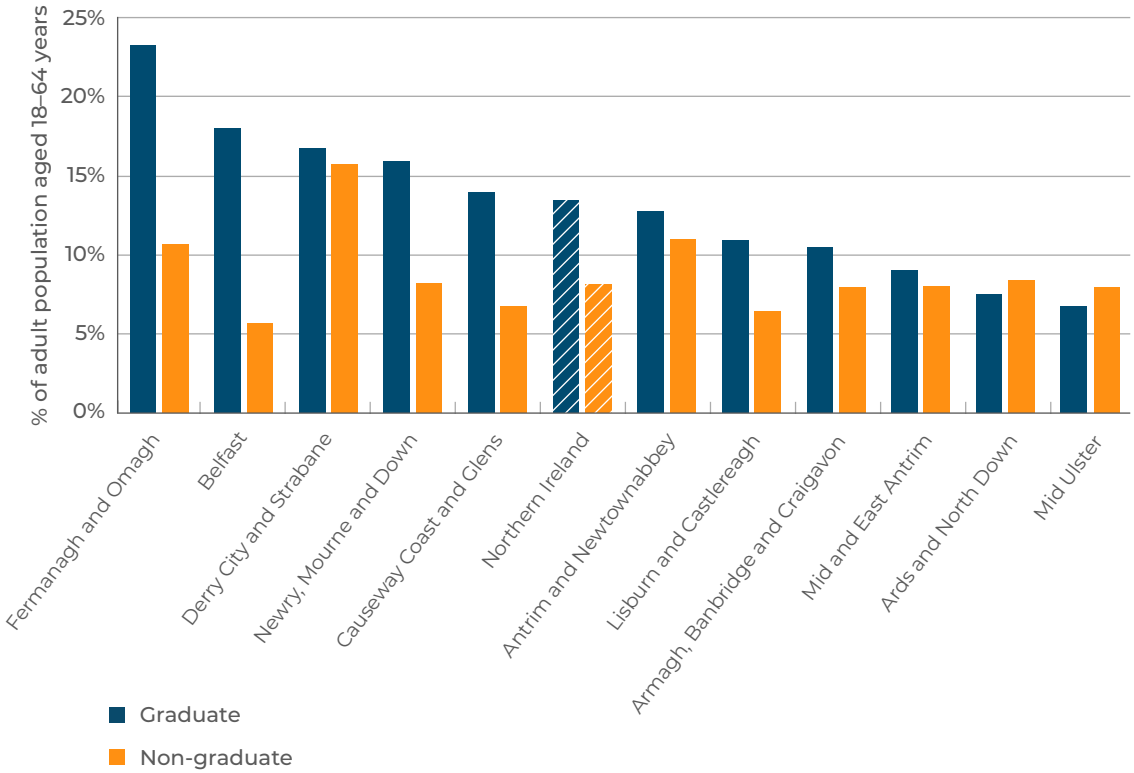



**FIGURE 4.9:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI by Graduate Status and Council Area, combined over 2023–25

(Source: GEM APS)

The graduate-level and non-graduate-level TEA rates by Council area, for the combined 2023–25 period, are shown in Figure 4.9, where the series are presented in descending order for the graduate TEA rate. The highest TEA rate for graduates is in Fermanagh and Omagh at 23.3%, while the lowest is in Mid Ulster at 6.7%, although the difference is not statistically significant. Belfast City council area has the second-highest graduate-level TEA rate at 18.0% but the lowest non-graduate TEA rate at 5.6%; it is the only council where the gap between the two is statistically significant. Meanwhile, Ards and North Down and Mid Ulster are the only two council areas where TEA rates are higher for non-graduates, although the differences are not statistically significant.

## 4.4 MIGRANT STATUS

Figure 4.10 presents TEA rates for regional in-migrants[9], immigrants and life-long residents in NI, using 3-year rolling averages. As life-long residents comprise the majority of the population, the NI average typically mirrors their trend.

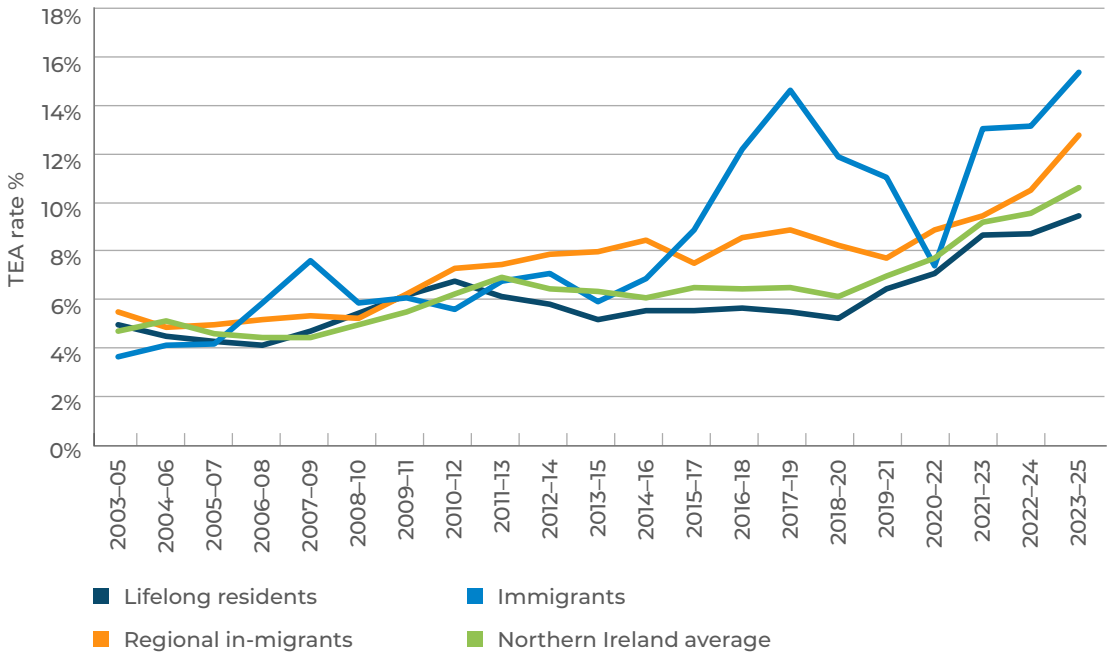
Those new to NI are typically most entrepreneurial, with TEA rates for regional in-migrants and immigrants higher than for the lifelong resident population for most of the past decade. In the UK, immigrants have also typically been found to be more entrepreneurial than the resident population, driven by opportunity rather than necessity motivations.

The 2023–25 period saw each of the population groups in NI reach new peaks in their entrepreneurial activity levels. The rate for the lifelong population increased to 9.5%, that for in-migrants reached 12.8%, while the TEA rate for immigrants has increased to 15.4%. The latter have also seen the largest rise in entrepreneurial activity since records began, rising by 12 percentage points since 2003–05.

The sample sizes for the ethnic population in NI are too small to produce reliable estimates for entrepreneurial activity rates by ethnicity. However, combining the entire 2002–2025 results gives an average TEA rate of 5.7% for the white population and 11.0% for the non-white population. The difference between the two is statistically significant.

**FIGURE 4.10:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI by Migrant Status, rolling averages 2003–2005 to 2023–2025

(Source: GEM APS)




9 Regional in-migrants are defined as those born in the UK but currently residing in a different Government Office Region to which they were born.

# 5. Entrepreneurial Attitudes and Intentions

GEM has developed a number of attitudinal statements which provide a proxy for entrepreneurial potential in a country/region. They include knowing a person who has started a business in the last 2 years[10], perception of good opportunities for start-up, self-belief in possessing the relevant skills to set up in business and the prevalence of fear of failure as a deterrent to setting up in business.

Individuals who are entrepreneurs may feel compelled to provide positive answers in the Adult Population Survey (APS). Hence, as in the last number of years, we report attitudinal data **only for that portion of the population who are not already entrepreneurs**.

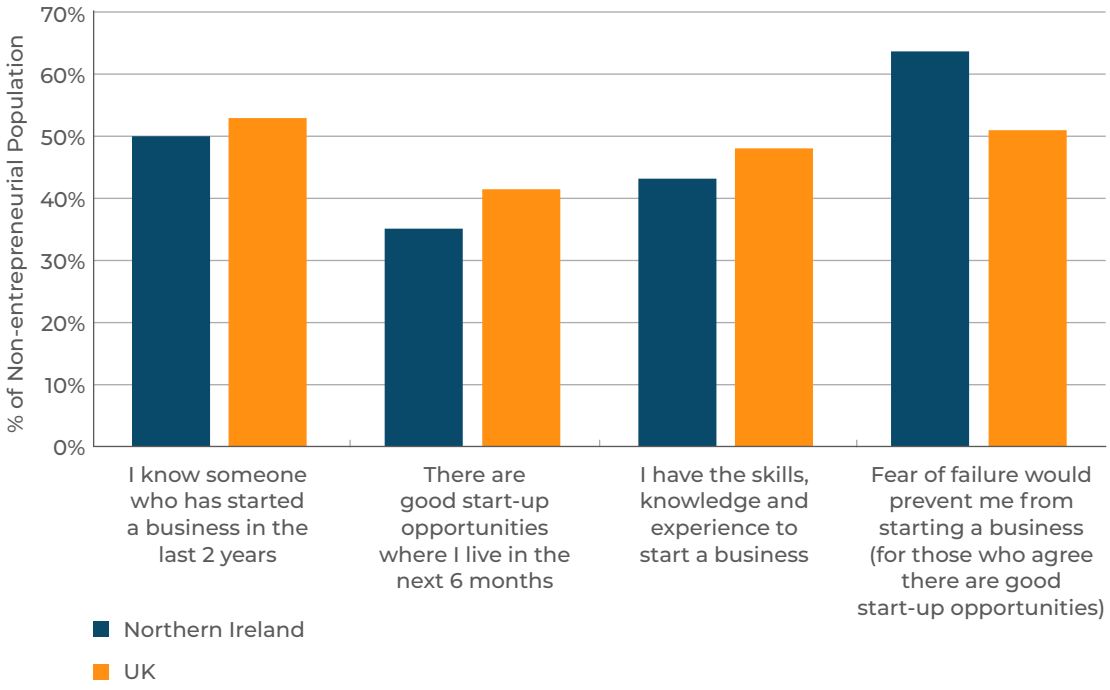



**FIGURE 5.1:** Entrepreneurial Attitudes and Perceptions in NI and the UK 2025

(Source: GEM APS)

10 Note that the wording of this question has changed in 2019, so rates are not comparable with previous years.

In NI, half of non-entrepreneurial individuals state that they know an entrepreneur (Figure 5.1), which is lower than in the UK (53.1%). A lower share in NI (43.3%) than in the UK (48.0%) also feel they have the skills, knowledge and experience to start a business, and perceive good opportunities for start-up. In 2025, just 35.1% of the non-entrepreneurial population in NI perceive good start-up opportunities compared to 41.5% in the UK.

These shares for NI are also all lower than their respective 2024 figures, but the share of individuals who recognise opportunities for start-up but also state their fear of failure would prevent them from doing so has stayed steady at 63.6% in 2025. Meanwhile, the UK figure for fear of failure has dropped from 58.2% in 2024 to 51.1% in 2025. In 2025, the difference between NI and the UK fear of failure rates is statistically significant.

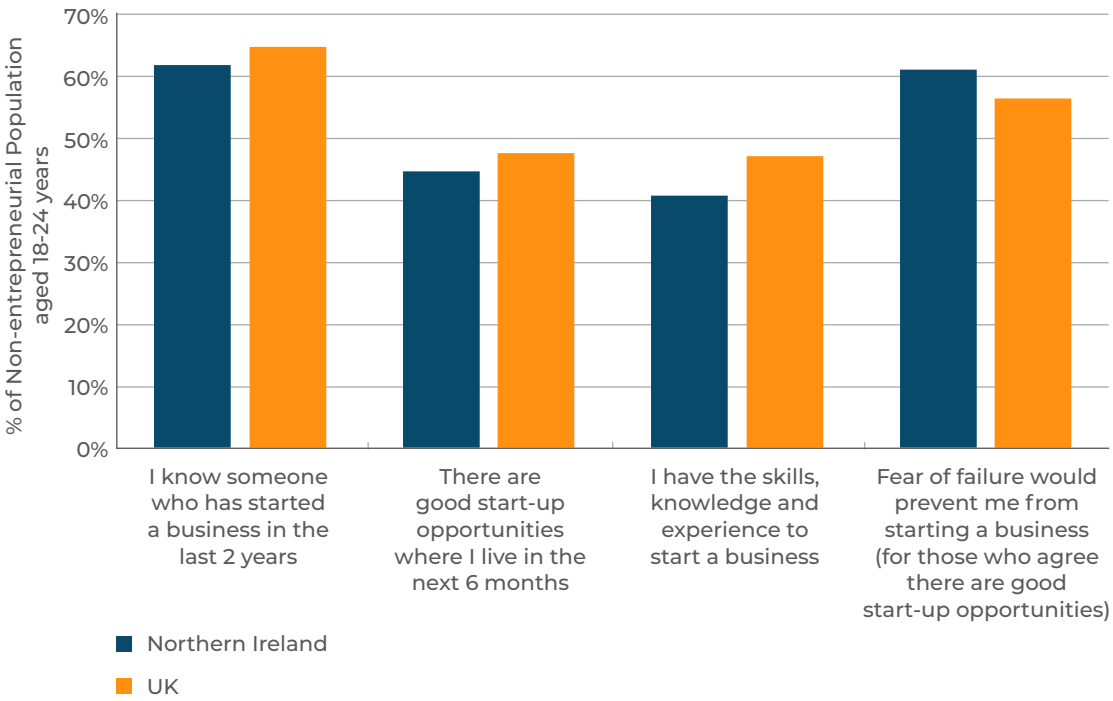
In 2025, in NI a higher share of men than women stated that they knew an entrepreneur (53.1% male, 47.3% female) and identified opportunities for start-up (37.5% male, 32.7% female), although these differences are not statistically significant.

Where there is a difference is in those who that feel they have the skills, knowledge and experience to start a business, whereby a lower share of women feel they have such skills (35.0%) compared to men (53.5%). Women also had higher fear of failure rates (69.3% female, 58.8% male), but this difference is not statistically significant.

Figure 5.2 shows these characteristics of entrepreneurial potential for the young aged 18–24 in both NI and the UK. A higher proportion of this young age group, relative to the wider non-entrepreneurial population, report that they know an entrepreneur (61.8% NI, 64.8% UK). Higher shares also perceive good start-up opportunities (44.7% NI, 47.5% UK) but lower shares than the non-entrepreneurial population feel they have the skills, knowledge and experience to start a business (40.6% NI, 47.0% UK). Again, relatively high proportions of young people report that fear of failure would prevent them from starting up (61.1% NI, 56.5% UK). The fear of failure rate for young people in NI is lower than the wider non-entrepreneurial population, but in the UK the opposite is the case, and the young have a higher fear of failure rate.

**FIGURE 5.2:** Entrepreneurial Attitudes and Perceptions among 18–24-year-olds in NI and the UK 2025

(Source: GEM APS)



As identified above, 35.1% of the non-entrepreneurial working-age population in NI agreed that there were good opportunities for starting a business in their local area in the next six months, compared to 41.5% in the UK (Figure 5.1). Prior to the financial recession 2007–2009, opportunity perception in NI and the UK were similar, however a significant difference has since opened up between the two and continued to prevail until 2019. Post-pandemic, the gap has endured (Figure 5.3).

In 2025, more than three-fifths of those in NI who see good opportunities in their local area in the next 6 months state that fear of failure would prevent them from starting a business (63.6%). Figure 5.4 shows that the rate in NI remains the highest rate across the four home nations, with a large gap now opening between NI and the other home nations.

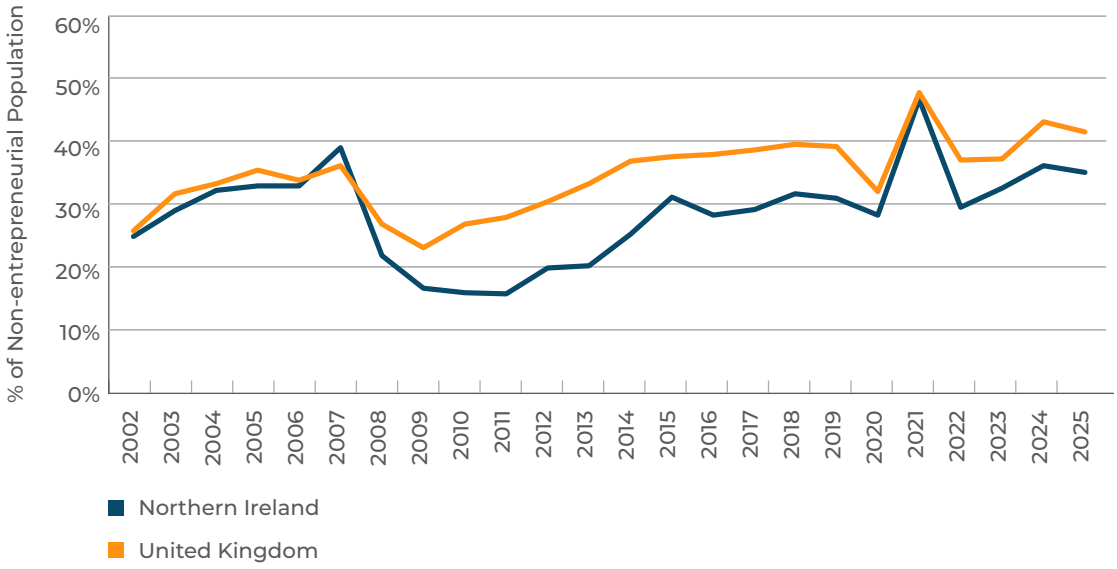



**FIGURE 5.3:** Extent to which good start-up opportunities in the local area, over the next 6 months, are perceived in NI and the UK, 2002–2025

(Source: GEM APS)

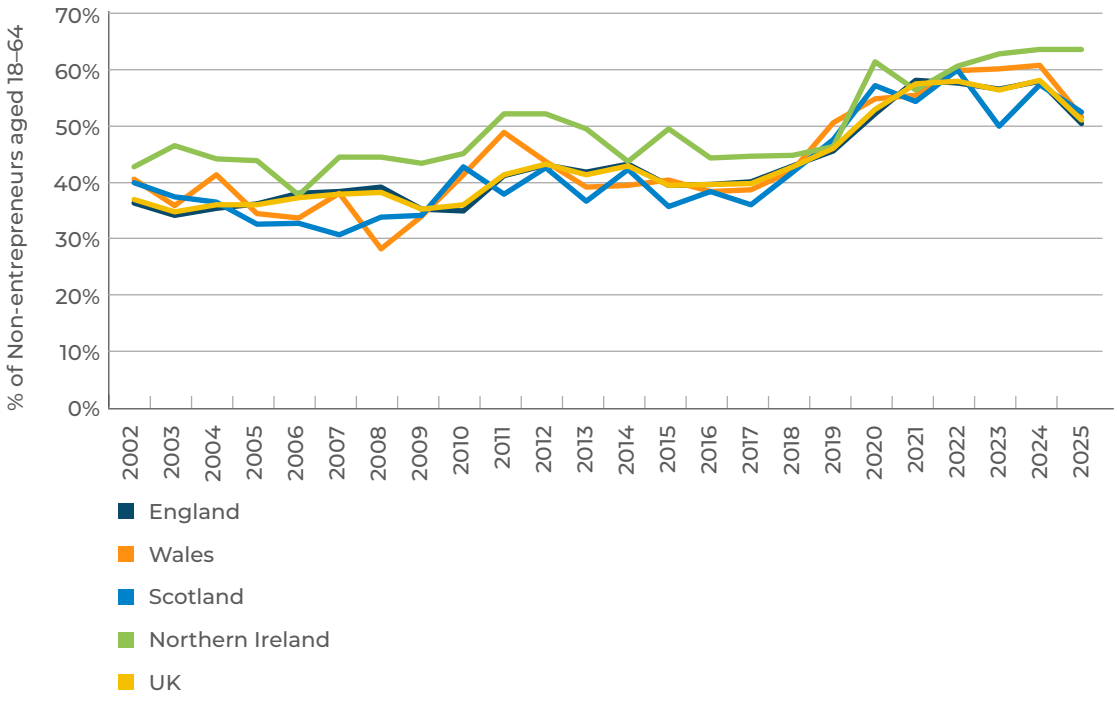



**FIGURE 5.4:** Fear of Failure among those who see Opportunities in the UK Home Nations, 2002–2025

(Source: GEM APS)

Looking to the future, the proportion of non-entrepreneurial working-age adults in NI in 2025 who expect to start a business within the next three years is 26.6%, up from 21.5% in 2024 (Figure 5.5). Although a positive, it lags behind that for the UK, which has risen from 26.4% to 34.2% in 2025.

In 2025, a higher share of males than females in the UK, and all home nations, reported that they intend to start a business in the next three years. These differences were statistically significant in Wales, Scotland and the UK. Figure 5.6 shows that Wales and Scotland had the largest gap in intention rates between males and females. Translated into female-to-male ratios, the respective rates are 68.2% for Scotland and 69.8% for Wales. The figure for NI equates to 73.6% compared to a UK average of 84.9%. In contrast to previous years, NI's female intention rate is no longer the lowest rate for females across all the home nations.

**FIGURE 5.5:** Future Start-up Expectations (within 3 years) in NI and the UK, 2002–2025

(Source: GEM APS)

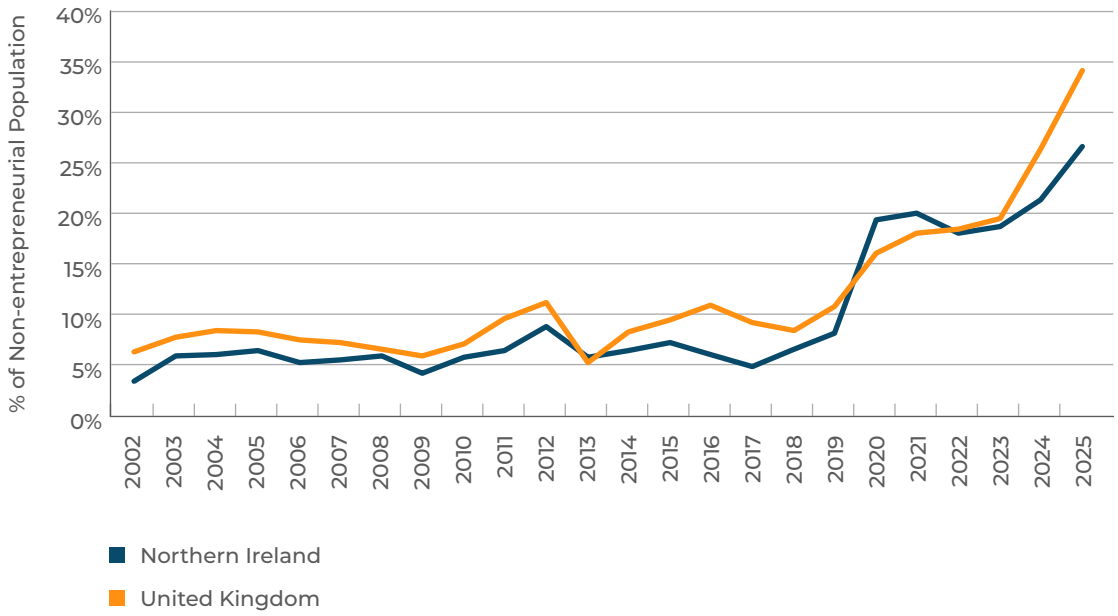
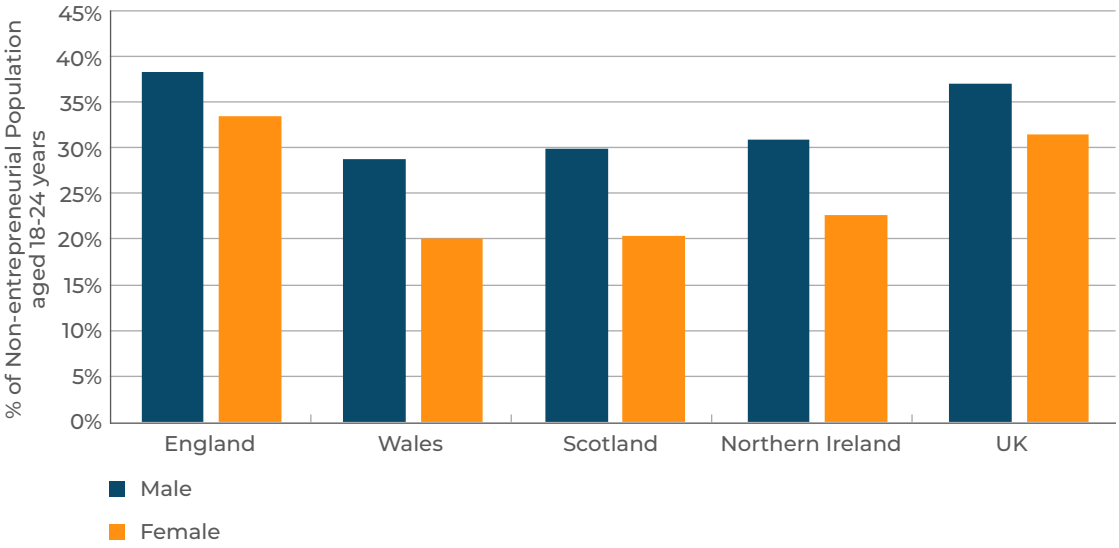



**FIGURE 5.6:** Future Start-up Expectations (within 3 years) in the UK Home Nations by Gender, 2025

(Source: GEM APS)



# 6. High Growth

Research has suggested that a relatively small number of firms can create a disproportionate number of jobs[11]. If an entrepreneur expects to create a large number of jobs, then his or her potential contribution to growth and regeneration through entrepreneurship may be greater.

To identify such individuals, GEM generates a variable which measures the percentage of all early-stage entrepreneurs (and separately established business owners) who expect to create more than ten jobs with a growth in employment of more than 50% in the next five years. Figure 6.1 displays the trend in these high-growth expectation entrepreneurs for both NI and the UK, using 3-year rolling averages. Previously, high-growth expectation rates amongst TEA entrepreneurs in the UK, and NI, were typically around three to four times higher than those for established business owners.

However, more recently the rates have converged, largely due to an increasing trend in the rate for established business owners.

It can be seen from Figure 6.1 that in NI, around one in five early-stage business owners expect to achieve high growth, which is approaching the peak of 21.3% seen during 2019–2021. The rate in NI is slightly lower than for the UK (21.7%), but it has mirrored the same trend whereby there was a drop in high job expectation during the pandemic, which has since rebounded.

As noted, there has been an upward trend in high-growth expectation for established business owners in NI and the UK, with most of that increase occurring post-2016 for the UK and post-2019 for NI. High expectation among established business owners reached a peak of 14.3% in NI and 15.2% in the UK during 2023–25, rates which are now three times higher than during the initial 2003–05 period.

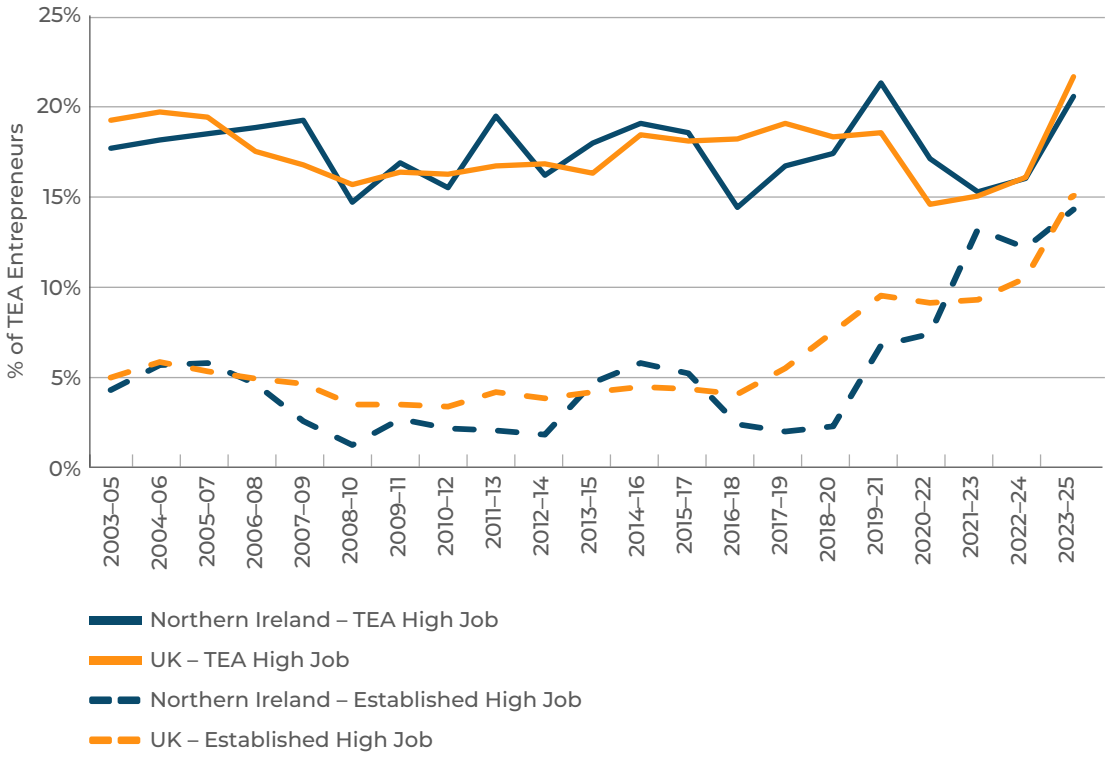



**FIGURE 6.1:** Relative Frequency of High Job Expectation Early-stage Entrepreneurs and Established Business Owners in NI and the UK, three-year rolling averages, 2003–2005 to 2023–2025

(Source: GEM APS)

11 Hart, M. and Anyadike-Danes, M. (2014) "Moving on from the vital 6%"; Enterprise Research Centre Insight Report, February

Along with high growth, GEM now also measures the potential impact of businesses in the national and world markets, as well as whether they are introducing new products or services. Table 6.1 shows that 2.3% of NI early-stage entrepreneurs have a business with potential national impact, up from 1.8% in 2024. The UK figure has also risen from 2.0% to 3.5% in 2025. In NI, the percentage of established business owner-managers whose businesses have potential national impact is lower than that for early-stage businesses, at 1.3%, but in the UK a higher share of established businesses has national impact at 4.1%.

In terms of international impact, the shares are much smaller, although relatively consistent between NI and the UK. In NI, around 0.5% of both early-stage and established business owners report international scope for their business; in the UK the figures are around 1%.

Around half of early-stage business owners in NI are engaged in product or service innovation compared to 46.3% of those in the UK, although this difference is not statistically significant. But only one third of NI established business owners are introducing new products or services, and this is statistically significantly lower than the 55.3% of UK established business owners. For both early-stage and established businesses, and for both NI and the UK, the majority of new products or services are only new to people in the local area, rather than new nationally or internationally.

**TABLE 6.1:** Measures of entrepreneurial potential impact and innovation rates in NI and the UK, 2025

(Source: GEM UK APS)

| | Early-Stage Businesses | | Established Businesses | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **NI** | **UK** | **NI** | **UK** |
| At least **national scope** for market and at least national scope for new product or new process | 2.3% | 3.5% | 1.3% | 4.1% |
| At least **international scope** for market and at least international scope for new product or new process | 0.6% | 1.0% | 0.4% | 1.2% |
| New product or service (new to local, national or international market) | 49.7% | 46.3% | 32.3% | 55.3% |

# 7. Funding

Obtaining funding is a key issue for many start-up businesses. Combining data for 2023–25, Table 7.1 shows that in NI, half of all nascent entrepreneurs expected to self-fund (49.8%), higher than the UK figure of 44.7%. In contrast, 9.8% of nascent entrepreneurs in NI expect that they will not need any funding compared to 11.4% in the UK, and even fewer expect that they personally will fund none of the start-up costs, at 0.4% in NI and 0.7% in the UK.

Of those expecting funding from elsewhere, funding from close family members is most favoured in NI, by around one third of nascent entrepreneurs, followed by funding from banks or other financial institutions (27.8%) and government programmes, donations or grants (25.1%). In the UK, the trend is the same: funding by close family also ranks highest (33.3%), followed by bank funding (28.8%) and then government funding (21.9%), the latter lower than the share in NI. NI also has lower shares than those in the UK, expecting funding from private investors or venture capital, from employers or work colleagues, and online crowdfunding.

| **Type of Funding Expected** | **NI %** | **UK %** |
|---|---|---|
| No funding needed | 9.8 | 11.4 |
| All funded by entrepreneur | 49.8 | 44.7 |
| None funded by entrepreneur | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| **Sources of Funding** | | |
| Close family member (spouse, parent, sibling) | 34.7 | 33.3 |
| Other relatives, kin or blood relations | 16.4 | 15.3 |
| Employer or work colleagues | 8.5 | 11.2 |
| Private investor or venture capital | 16.6 | 17.9 |
| Friends or neighbours | 12.1 | 14.4 |
| Banks or other financial institutions | 27.8 | 28.8 |
| Government programmes, donations or grants | 25.1 | 21.9 |
| Online crowdfunding | 8.4 | 11.0 |
| Any other source | 8.0 | 8.3 |

**TABLE 7.1:** Percentage of nascent entrepreneurs expecting funding from different sources, 2023–25

(Source: GEM UK APS)

As discussed earlier in Chapter Four, women-owned start-ups tend to have a different sectoral profile than men. Wider evidence also suggests differences in funding for early-stage businesses, with women raising less external finance, on less favourable terms and from a narrower set of sources than men, even after accounting for differences in sector[12]. In NI in 2025/26, a higher share of women nascent entrepreneurs (55.2%) than men (45.8%) were expecting to self-fund all their start-up costs. Of those sourcing funding from elsewhere, around one third of both male and female nascent entrepreneurs were expecting to source from close family members, but higher shares of men than women were expecting funding from all other categories. This includes funding from banks or other financial institutions (34.9% male and 18.5% female) and funding from government programmes, donations or grants (31.7% male and 16.4% female).

As identified above, around one third of nascent entrepreneurs in NI and the UK expect to source funding primarily from family. This coincides with increasing trends in informal investment, or investment by individuals in other people's new businesses, as shown in Table 7.2. The informal investment rate over the combined 2023–2025 period stands at 9.7% in NI, lower than the UK rate of 12.1%. Investment into companies owned by close family is the most common investment choice in NI, which, at 47.8%, is below the UK share of 50.7%. Consequently, NI has higher shares investing in friends or neighbours', work colleagues and strangers' businesses.

**TABLE 7.2:** Percentage of individuals aged 18–64 who have invested in someone else's new business in the last 3 years, and the distribution of relationships to the latest investee, 2023–2025

(Source: GEM APS)

| **Informal investment rate** | **NI %** | **UK %** |
|---|---|---|
| % aged 18–64 who have invested in someone else's new business in the last 3 years | 9.7 | 12.1 |
| **Relationship of latest investee (% of latest investments)** | | |
| Close family member (spouse, parent, sibling) | 47.8 | 50.7 |
| Other relative, kin or blood relations | 14.4 | 15.2 |
| Work colleague | 9.4 | 8.9 |
| Friend or neighbour | 17.5 | 14.6 |
| A stranger with a good business idea | 10.9 | 9.8 |
| Other | 0.0 | 0.7 |

12 See Chapter 6 in the UK GEM 2025/26 report for a discussion on female entrepreneurship and the finance gap.

# 8. Concluding Observations

Levels of entrepreneurial activity are a vital metric in any economy, as the creation of new ventures is positively connected to the drivers of economic growth and productivity through increased innovation, competition and job creation. NI recorded its highest ever rate of early-stage entrepreneurial activity in 2025, with the TEA rate rising to 11.9% and the male rate also reaching a record high. On the TEA measure, NI now sits ahead of several small advanced economies, but there remains a gap with the UK, where entrepreneurial activity has also grown strongly.

A key area of divergence between NI and the UK is attitudinal. Only around a third of non-entrepreneurs in NI see good local opportunities for starting a business, well below the 2021 peak and the UK rate of 41.5%. In the UK, fear of failure among those who see opportunities to start fell to 51.1%, but in NI it held steady at 63.6%. Intention to start a business has also risen to 26.6% in NI, but continues to lag the UK rate of 34.2%. Without a shift in perception in NI, there is a risk of a widening gap between those who could start a business and those who do so.

Despite this, there are encouraging signs in growth ambition. Around one in five early-stage entrepreneurs now expect high growth, which is approaching the previous peak. Meanwhile, growth expectations among established business owners have reached their highest level on record, which is three times higher than two decades ago. This points to a group of firms with the potential to make a significant contribution to job creation and productivity, provided the right conditions for scaling are in place.

Taken together, the findings suggest that policy attention should move beyond simply encouraging more start-ups towards building confidence, capability and growth. Priorities should include tackling fear of failure and raising awareness of opportunities, strengthening place-based and inclusive support that reflects local variation, and backing those businesses, both new and established, with ambition to grow and/or scale.

In practice, reducing the personal risk of starting a business could help with fear of failure and building confidence. Offering low-commitment entry points such as test-trading and idea validation workshops would help people test their idea without fully committing to starting. Ensuring widespread awareness and access to low-risk pre-start funding and grant assistance could also support capability to start. Supportive peer networks, relatable local role models, and presenting failure as a learning outcome within programme messaging would help normalise entrepreneurship. Combining this with re-start pathways would also encourage those who see opportunities to act on them.

Raising awareness of local opportunities could be achieved through greater visibility of public procurement opportunities and signposting growth and priority sectors. Flexibility in local delivery would also allow support to be tailored to local need, while outreach to under-represented communities would also support local inclusion.

The rise in growth ambition presents a further opportunity on which to capitalise. A clear pathway from start-up support to more intensive growth support would help ensure high-ambition firms are identified early and helped to move towards scaling. Established businesses with growth intentions should also be a priority, with support focused on management capability, technology adoption, exporting and access to growth finance.

Many of the measures needed are already in place within NI's enterprise ecosystem, and the priority should be to build on, co-ordinate and raise awareness of this existing provision, rather than necessarily create new interventions. Tracking the outcomes of these support measures will also be important in assessing the impact of policy over time. Acting on these priorities would ensure that NI's record entrepreneurial activity results in lasting momentum and helps close the persistent gap with the UK. The challenge now is to turn these record levels of activity into a more confident, capable and growth-oriented entrepreneurial base.

# Appendix One

**FIGURE A1:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI in 2009–15 by Council Area, with 95% confidence intervals

(Source: GEM APS 2003–25)

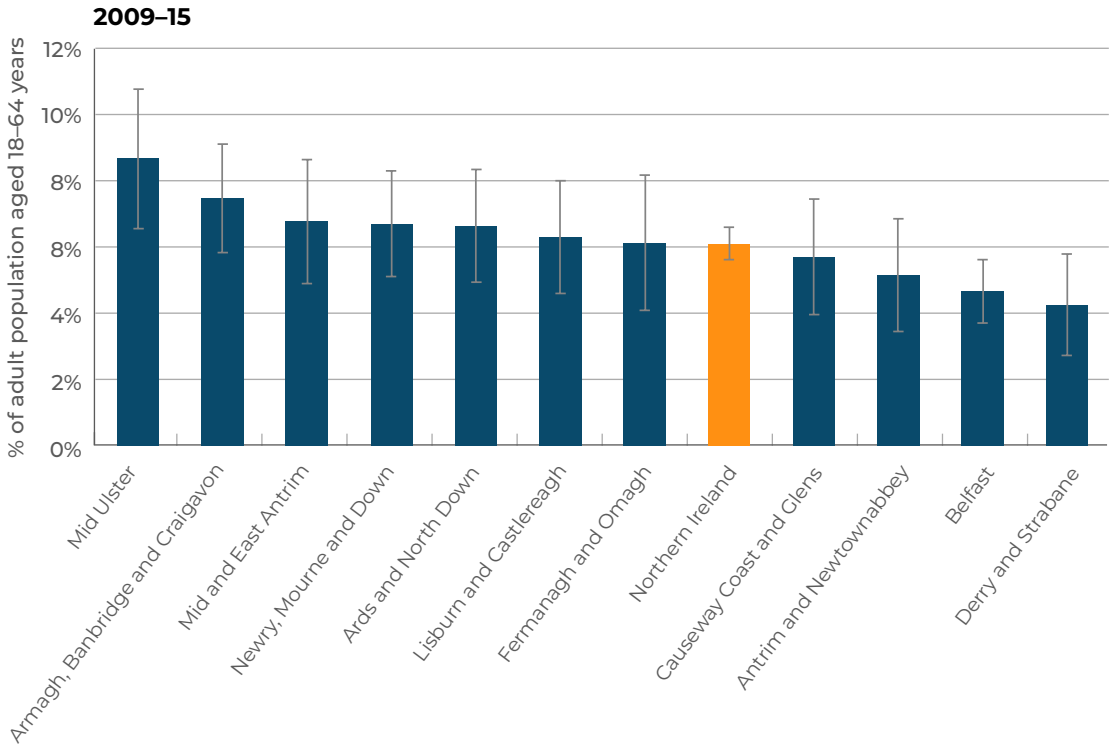
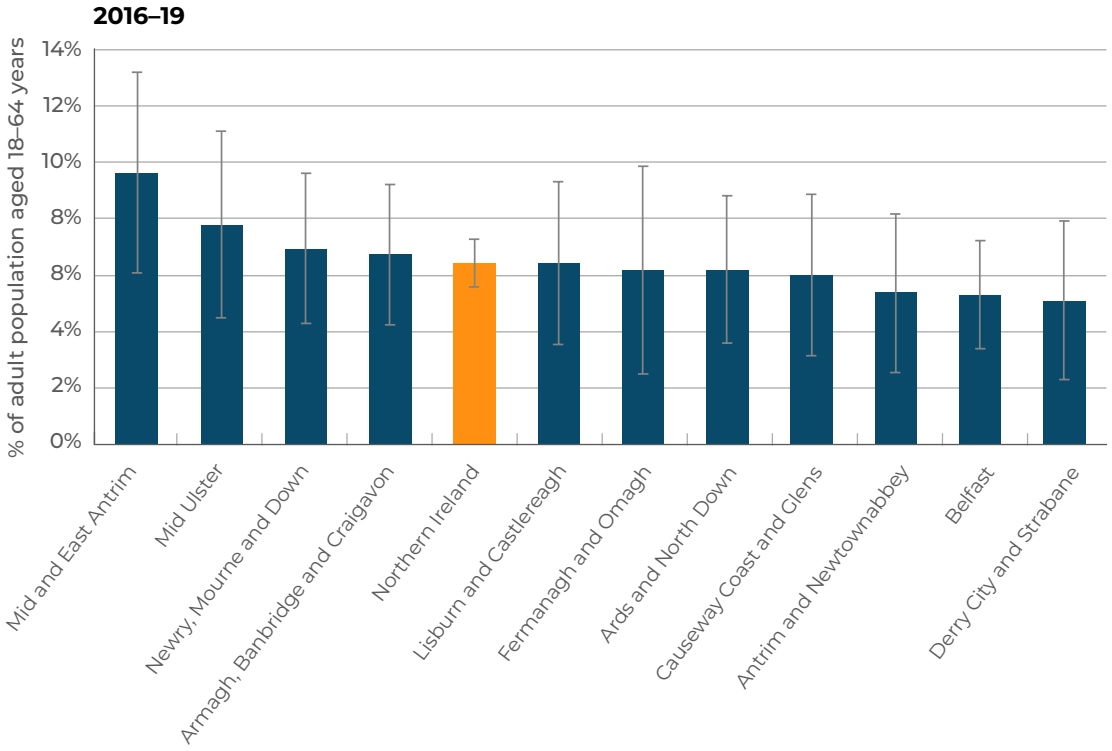



**FIGURE A2:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI in 2016–19 by Council Area, with 95% confidence intervals

(Source: GEM APS 2003–25)



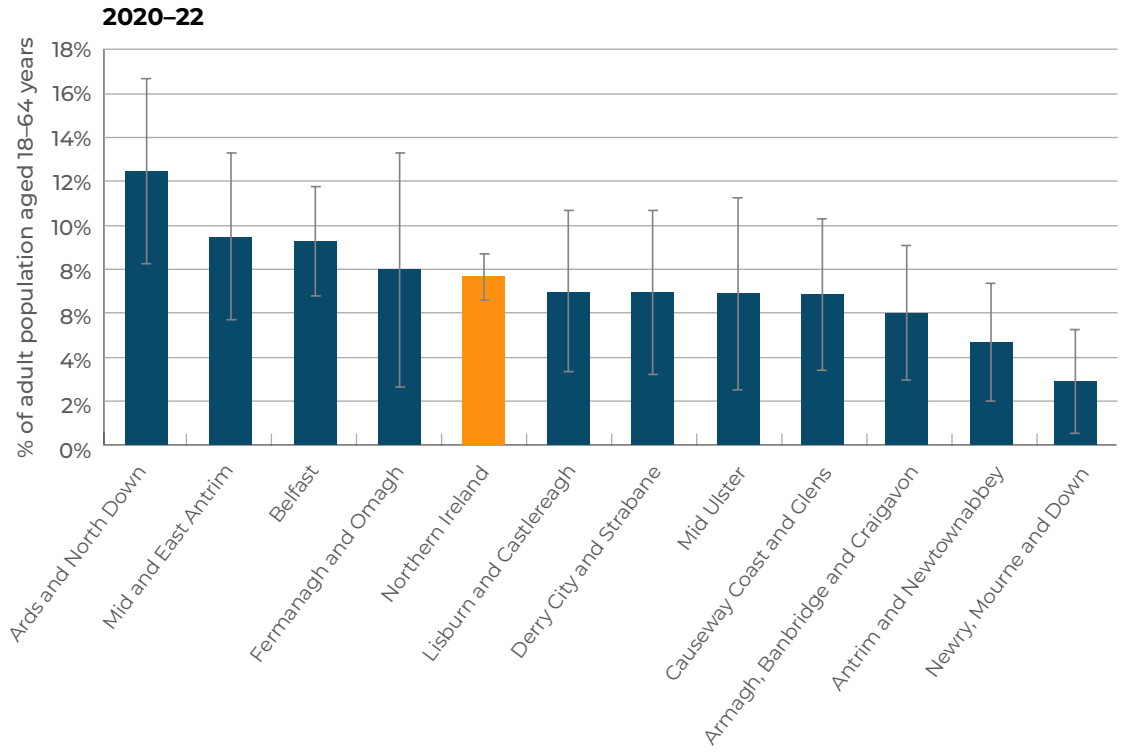



**FIGURE A3:** Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI in 2020–22 by Council Area, with 95% confidence intervals

(Source: GEM APS 2003–25)

**TABLE A3:** 95% Confidence Intervals for Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI by Council Area, rolling averages 2002–04 to 2023–25

(Source: GEM APS 2002–25)

| | 2002 –04 | 2003 –05 | 2004 –06 | 2005 –07 | 2006 –08 | 2007 –09 | 2008 –10 | 2009 –11 | 2010 –12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Antrim and Newtownabbey | 4.3% | 1.3% | 1.2% | 1.1% | 1.7% | 2.0% | 3.2% | 3.1% | 3.4% |
| Ards and North Down | 3.8% | 1.3% | 1.3% | 1.2% | 1.5% | 2.0% | 2.9% | 2.9% | 2.9% |
| Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon | 2.3% | 1.4% | 1.2% | 1.3% | 1.4% | 1.7% | 2.4% | 2.6% | 3.5% |
| Belfast City | 1.7% | 1.4% | 1.2% | 1.1% | 1.2% | 1.4% | 1.7% | 1.6% | 1.8% |
| Causeway Coast and Glens | 1.3% | 1.5% | 1.4% | 1.5% | 1.5% | 1.8% | 2.5% | 2.8% | 3.2% |
| Derry City and Strabane | 2.9% | 1.5% | 1.4% | 1.3% | 1.3% | 1.7% | 1.8% | 2.0% | 2.7% |
| Fermanagh and Omagh | 1.8% | 2.1% | 2.0% | 1.9% | 1.9% | 2.2% | 2.5% | 2.9% | 2.4% |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh | 1.4% | 1.6% | 1.3% | 1.5% | 2.2% | 2.3% | 3.0% | 2.9% | 3.1% |
| Mid Ulster | 2.5% | 1.9% | 1.8% | 1.6% | 1.8% | 2.1% | 3.1% | 3.1% | 4.6% |
| Mid and East Antrim | 4.1% | 1.8% | 1.4% | 1.4% | 1.5% | 2.0% | 2.5% | 2.8% | 2.9% |
| Newry, Mourne and Down | 3.1% | 1.5% | 1.4% | 1.2% | 1.7% | 1.8% | 2.6% | 2.6% | 2.9% |
| **NI** | **0.5%** | **0.5%** | **0.4%** | **0.4%** | **0.5%** | **0.6%** | **0.8%** | **0.8%** | **0.9%** |

| 2011 –13 | 2012 –14 | 2013 –15 | 2014 –16 | 2015 –17 | 2016 –18 | 2017 –19 | 2018 –20 | 2019 –21 | 2020 –22 | 2021 –23 | 2022 –24 | 2023 –25 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.5% | 2.6% | 2.6% | 2.8% | 3.2% | 2.9% | 4.2% | 3.8% | 3.9% | 2.8% | 3.3% | 4.1% | 4.6% |
| 2.3% | 2.5% | 2.3% | 2.5% | 2.7% | 2.8% | 3.6% | 3.6% | 4.2% | 4.2% | 4.2% | 3.7% | 3.0% |
| 3.2% | 3.2% | 2.1% | 2.1% | 2.6% | 2.9% | 2.9% | 2.7% | 3.0% | 3.2% | 3.1% | 3.3% | 3.8% |
| 1.7% | 1.7% | 1.5% | 1.5% | 1.9% | 2.2% | 2.5% | 2.3% | 2.5% | 2.5% | 2.7% | 2.8% | 2.7% |
| 2.7% | 2.8% | 2.7% | 2.9% | 2.8% | 2.9% | 4.4% | 4.6% | 4.5% | 3.4% | 3.1% | 3.6% | 4.1% |
| 2.7% | 3.0% | 2.2% | 2.5% | 2.3% | 3.8% | 3.4% | 3.4% | 2.9% | 4.0% | 4.7% | 4.8% | 5.3% |
| 2.0% | 1.9% | 4.1% | 4.7% | 4.4% | 3.1% | 5.5% | 6.0% | 6.6% | 5.3% | 5.3% | 5.8% | 6.4% |
| 2.5% | 2.3% | 2.6% | 2.8% | 3.1% | 3.2% | 3.9% | 3.7% | 4.1% | 3.7% | 4.1% | 3.8% | 3.7% |
| 4.2% | 4.5% | 3.3% | 3.5% | 3.8% | 3.8% | 4.1% | 3.5% | 4.9% | 4.6% | 5.2% | 4.0% | 4.4% |
| 2.7% | 2.7% | 3.4% | 3.6% | 4.2% | 4.2% | 4.8% | 4.5% | 4.2% | 3.8% | 3.6% | 3.6% | 3.7% |
| 2.5% | 2.3% | 2.7% | 3.0% | 2.9% | 2.9% | 3.2% | 3.1% | 2.8% | 2.4% | 3.3% | 4.2% | 4.8% |
| **0.8%** | **0.8%** | **0.7%** | **0.8%** | **0.8%** | **0.9%** | **1.1%** | **1.1%** | **1.1%** | **1.0%** | **1.1%** | **1.1%** | **1.2%** |

## DISCLAIMER

This report is based on data collected by the GEM GLOBAL consortium and the GEM UK team; responsibility for analysis and interpretation of the data is the sole responsibility of the authors.

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**For further information on the GEM UK project, contact:**

Professor Mark Hart
Enterprise Research Centre
Warwick Business School
Email: Mark.Hart@wbs.ac.uk

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK