

YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING

STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING PAPER

DEL ANALYTICAL SERVICES 26 November 2014

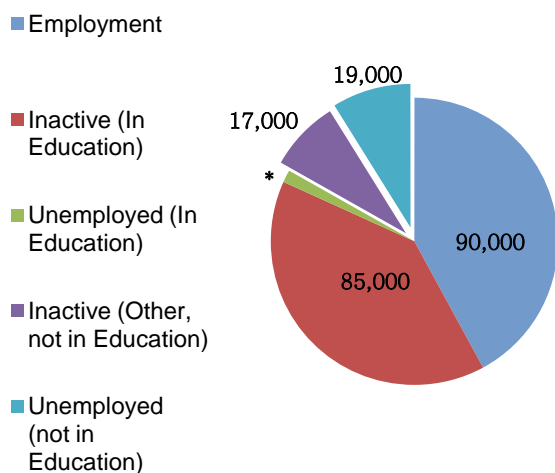
This briefing paper on persons not in education, employment or training (NEETs) is designed to present the latest quantitative information as well as historical trend data. It puts the figures into a broader NI economic perspective and describes the characteristics of NEETs.

The future of Northern Ireland depends upon the 220,000 or so young people aged 16-24. This generation will have to cope with the challenges the future holds: an ageing population; a period of economic uncertainty and increasing global competition. It is therefore important to avoid the disengagement of a large group of young people from the labour market that may, as a consequence, face increased risks across a wide range of health and well-being indicators.

Key statistics

Economic Overview 16-24
July - September 2014
Figure 1

Source: LFS Quarterly Supplement



According to the latest (July to September 2014) Labour Force Survey Quarterly Supplement there are 90,000 young people aged 16-24 in employment; 19,000 unemployed and 85,000 in education (mainly students). There are also 17,000 inactive people. In total, about 210,000 young people aged 16-24. Within this total there are 36,000 young people classified as NEETs, 19,000 of which are unemployed and another 17,000 economically inactive, none of which are in education (either full or part-time). This 36,000 figure is up 1,000 on the year and 4,000 over the quarter – reflecting perhaps the recent slowdown in

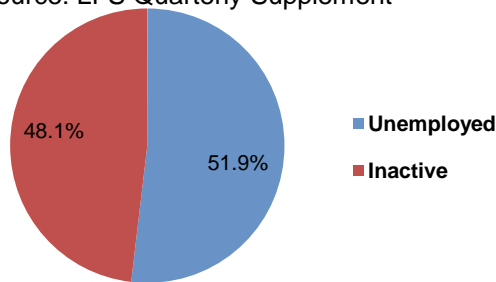
the recovery. This is nearly 17% of the 16-24 population.

This group has been particularly problematic for European and UK policy makers but within Northern Ireland the overall number has not changed a great deal over the 2012 to 2014 period (up by 1,000). There is some fluctuation in overall numbers and the proportion male or female but these fluctuations tend to be short-lived.

The NEET issue involves roughly equivalent numbers of both males and females and the proportionate split varies from 50:50 to 60:40 male/female depending on the period chosen. About half of NEETs are unemployed and looking for work whereas the remainder are economically inactive (typically this involves 'looking after the home'; 'sick/disabled'). Young people in either part or full-time education are excluded from these figures.

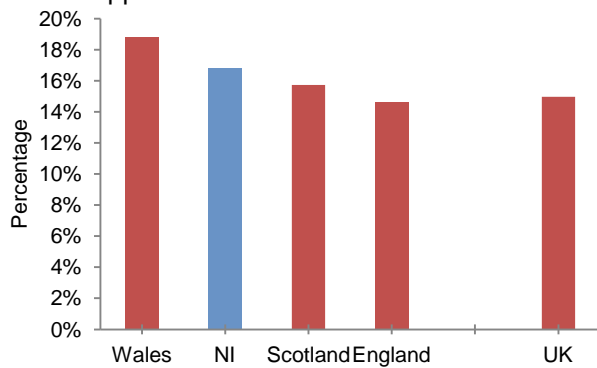
**Inactivity & Unemployed NEETs
July - September 2014**

Figure 2
Source: LFS Quarterly Supplement



**NEETs Rates (16-24) by UK Country
July - September 2014**

Figure 3 Source: LFS Quarterly Supplement



Favourable employment rates for young, but not the youngest adults

The NI employment rate for persons aged 16-64 is about 68% compared to the UK level of 73%. But this disguises the fact that while the younger age groups 16-19 in NI fair poorly relative to the UK average (see Figure 3), and the older age groups (over 40) also compare poorly, there is evidence that those in the 25-40 age groups compare quite well and in some cases exceed the age comparable UK average. The reasons why (excluding the NEET age group) many young adults in NI have higher employment rates requires further investigation. The historically lower employment rate in NI relative to the UK is largely driven by the under-performance of the over 40 age groups. In summary, NEETs fair poorly and the over 40s fair poorly but the age groups in between perform quite well.

CHARACTERISTICS OF NEETs FROM CENSUS INFORMATION

The labour force survey provides the most up to date headline statistics on NEETs. However the Census can provide much more detailed information on their location and characteristics. What follows is a census-based analysis of NEETs from the perspective of location; disability and qualifications. There is also a section on the young person's family structure which illustrates the varied home circumstances in which NEETs live and as such their different needs in terms of policy responses.

The two main NEET age groups (16-19 and 20-24)

The 16-19 and the 20-24 age group face substantial barriers to employment. The Census recorded a total NEET population of around 33,000, which at that time was 15% of all those aged 16-24. The older NEET group is larger, and at 25,000 makes up 20% of that age cohort. The smaller group aged 16-19 contains 8,000 young people and make up 8% of that age cohort.

NEET family structure

NEET family structure is particularly important because it influences their circumstances and therefore the labour market and education decisions they may take, for example in their role as: young people in households with one or two parents; in their role as parents themselves or in their role as living in a married or cohabiting couple; or a single person living independently or in a communal establishment.

Only about 12,000 out of 33,000 NEETs live in a couple family i.e. as a child of one or both members of the couple.

The next largest category of NEETs (8,000) are young people being looked after by a lone parent. The next largest category of NEETs are themselves lone parents (5,000) with caring responsibilities for their own child/children.

Almost 5,000 are living as single people 'not in a family' and just over 3,000 are living as a married/cohabiting couple. 500 are living in communal establishments.

These findings are provisional and represent the first census-based family type analysis of NEETs that has been published. They shed important light on the diverse family circumstances of NEETs which in turn will have implications for policy and policy interventions.

Family Type (NEETs aged 16-24) Census 2011

1. Not in a family	4,800	Living independently (single)
2. Member of a couple	3,200	Cohabiting / Married
3. In a couple family	12,000	NEET plus 2 parents (includes step-parents)
4. Parent in a lone parent family	5,000	NEET is a lone parent themselves
5. Child in lone parent family	8,200	NEET is a child in a lone parent family
6. Communal establishment	500	NEET living in a communal establishment

Figures rounded to the nearest 100

NEETs: over-representation within a disadvantaged group

No Qualifications Group

Not surprisingly, NEETs are over-represented within disadvantaged groups. For example, for every 100 young people (16-19) with no qualifications, 12% will be NEET (whereas their population 'share' is only 8%). On the other hand for every 100 young people (20-24) who have no qualifications, 57 of them will be NEET (whereas their population 'share' is 20%). Almost 10,000 NEETs have no qualifications. This is close to one third of the 16-19 group and one quarter of the 20-24 group.

Persons with a Disability

The picture is even more pronounced when considering disability. The Census asked if a person's day to day activities were limited 'a lot'; 'a little'; or 'not limited'. For every 100 people aged 20-24 whose activities were limited 'a lot', 67% of them were classified as NEET – i.e., more than three times their population share. In terms of numbers there are over 3,000 NEETs whose day to day activities are limited a lot. This is 7% of the 16-19 year old NEETs and 10% of the older NEETs.

Geographic Location

NEETs are spread across Northern Ireland and with some notable exceptions their representation is close to the census 15% average. The notable exceptions are Belfast and Foyle – particularly for the older NEET group in West Belfast, North Belfast and Foyle where the percentage is between 28% and 31%.

This is important to note given the recent DEL commissioned Labour Market Mobility study (NI Centre for Economic Policy, 2014). The study was pessimistic about job creation in areas outside Belfast. In summary, the study suggests that most of the jobs being created over the next few years are likely to be concentrated in Belfast. This should signal an opportunity for the NEET populations in Belfast. However, the study also noted the 'chill factor' which operated particularly strongly in parts of Belfast. So paradoxically, the employment opportunities that are expected to materialise in Belfast may be difficult to match with the areas where the NEET populations tend to be high i.e. in West and North Belfast.

Areas of multiple deprivation

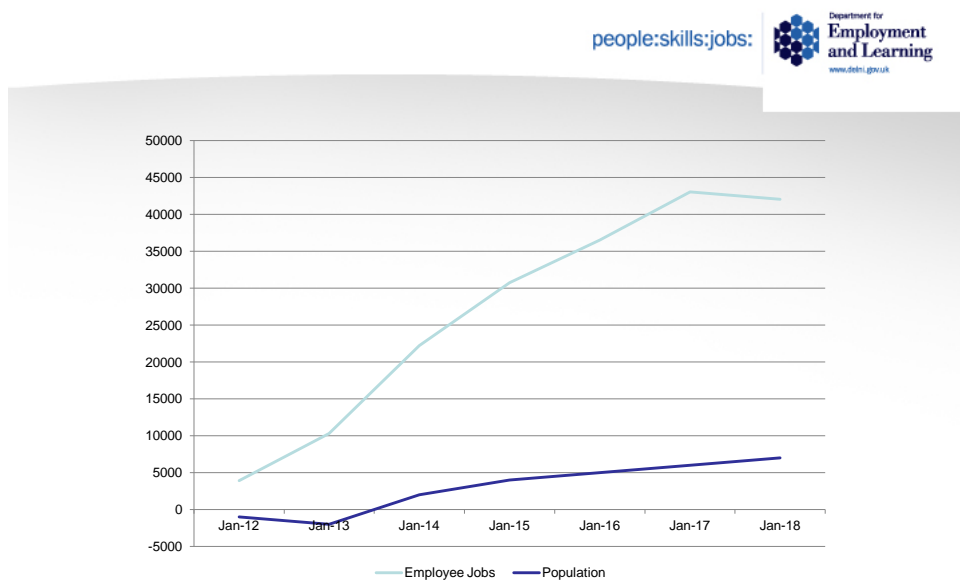
Grouping areas of multiple deprivation (see the NINIS section of the NI Statistics and Research Agency's website) into 5 categories from 'most deprived' to 'least deprived' it is not surprising that

the most deprived areas contain 34% of the NEET population and the least deprived areas contain 10% of the NEET population (11,000 and 3,000 people respectively). The proportion 'NEET' in the area falls with increasing affluence. It should be noted that while this finding might be intuitively appealing it does not rule out the fact that some affluent areas contain pockets of deprivation.

Working Age population growth forecasts and job forecasts

It is expected that the working age population will only increase by about 1,000 per year for the next few years. Against this, the job creation forecasts suggest that between 2012 and 2018 there will be an additional 40,000 or so jobs created. Even given recent commentary (NICEP, November,2014) on the economic future of Northern Ireland it is still likely that the momentum in job creation will continue. If the momentum does continue albeit at a much slower pace, it would still be reasonable to assume that jobs will be created at a rate of 4 or 5:1 for every increase in the working age population.

Cumulative job and working age population growth 2012 - 2018



As regards rural areas, the job opportunities are likely to be fewer and the task of supporting NEET populations in these areas will be challenging. That said, job growth is expected to occur throughout 2015 and the 2014 job growth rates occurred in all district councils and all Councils experienced a fall in their unemployment rates.

NEETs and household income

Very little is known about the household income of NEETs but there is some evidence from Eurofound (2012) that links household income to the probability of being in the NEET category. The Eurofound research showed that the lower the income of the household the higher the chances of the young person being NEET. As income increased the chances of being NEET decreased until the household income entered the top 25% or so of income households. It may be a counter-intuitive finding but 'affluent' households tended to have higher chances of containing NEETs than middle income households.

The reasons for this are not fully clear but it could be due to a range of factors such as young people taking a 'gap' year or that more affluent households exert less pressure on young people to take any job on offer at the first opportunity, or provide financial or other support.

The data sources to replicate this finding in Northern Ireland are not available but it is possible to map the proportion of NEETs across five geographic areas of multiple deprivation (from 'most' to 'least' deprived). The results are shown in the table below. NEETs are concentrated in the most deprived areas but there are substantial numbers in the least deprived areas also.

MDM Quintile	Age band		
	All 16-19	All 20-24	All 16-24
Group 1 - Most Deprived	2,717	8,576	11,293
Group 2	1,865	5,979	7,844
Group 3	1,414	4,562	5,976
Group 4	1,271	3,847	5,118
Group 5 - Least Deprived	848	2,437	3,285
Total	8,115	25,401	33,516

MDM Quintile	Age band		
	All 16-19	All 20-24	All 16-24
Group 1 - Most Deprived	33%	34%	34%
Group 2	23%	24%	23%
Group 3	17%	18%	18%
Group 4	16%	15%	15%
Group 5 - Least Deprived	10%	10%	10%
Total	100%	100%	100%

In Northern Ireland NEETs are concentrated in the most deprived areas (Multiple Deprivation Measure, NISRA). However, there are some NEETs in the most affluent areas who are likely to be in high income households. This cannot be proven with current data sources as there are pockets of deprivation within affluent areas but certainly there are NEETs with very high qualifications. For example, 21% have either a level 3 or level 4 qualification and 10% of the older NEET age group have a level 4 qualification (Degree, HNC, HND, BTEC etc. See annexe for full definition).

Census 2011 Geographic Analysis

In the 2011 Census, there were **33,516** young people falling into the NEET category in total, which at that time represented almost 15% of the 16-24 population.

NI 2011 Census data are illustrated below in 4 maps:-

1. NEET rates by Local Government District
2. Male NEET rates by Local Government District
3. Female NEET rates by Local Government District
4. NEET rates by Assembly Area

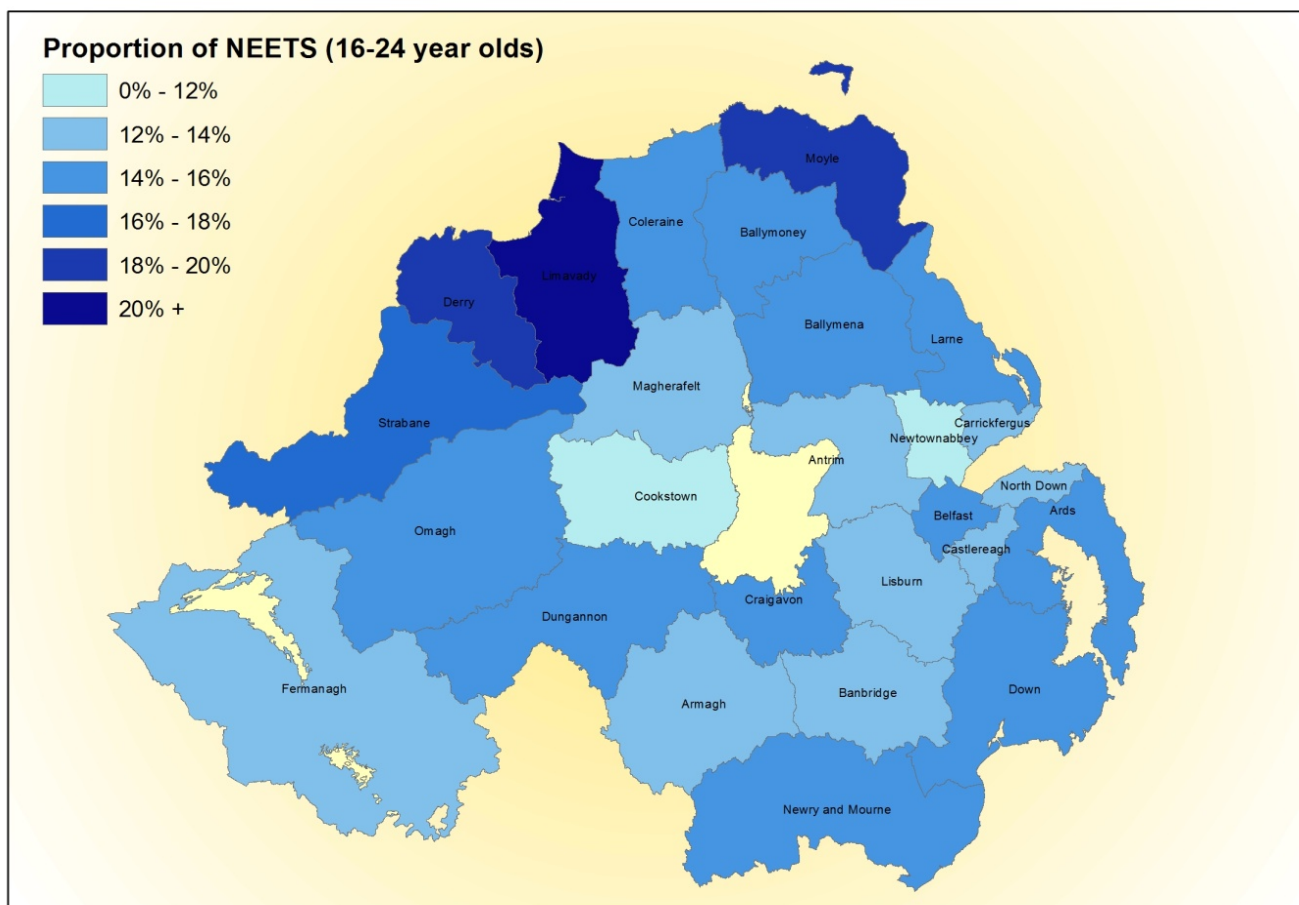
Summary

The NI average rate of 16-24 year olds not in education, employment or government-supported training is 14.7%. The female NEET levels (NI = 13.5%) are only slightly lower than those for males (NI = 15.9%) in all Local Government Districts except North Down. The maps below show that there is a higher rate of NEETs as a proportion of the 16-24 population in the North and Northwest of Northern Ireland as well as in some parts of Belfast. West and North Belfast and Foyle have particularly high proportions of NEETs and Upper Bann also. West and North Belfast and Foyle also have very high proportions of NEETs aged 20-24 (close to or over 30% of the age group in that area).

1. NEETs by Local Government District (Annex 1)

The proportion of the 16-24 population who are NEET varies across the Local Government Districts from 11.2% to 21.3%, and the NI average is 14.7%. The highest levels of NEETs are in Limavady, Derry and Moyle (21.3%, 19.1% and 18.2% respectively). The lowest levels of NEETS

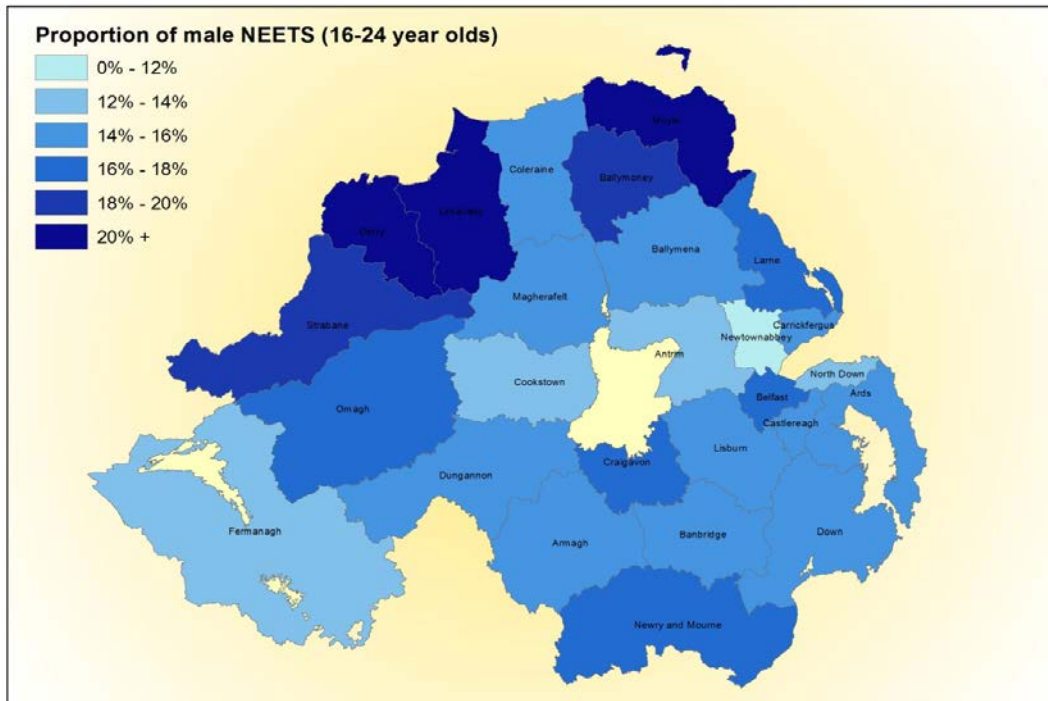
are in Newtownabbey, Cookstown and Castlereagh (11.2%, 12.0% and 12.3% respectively).



Source: Census 2011

2. NEETs by Local Government District - Males

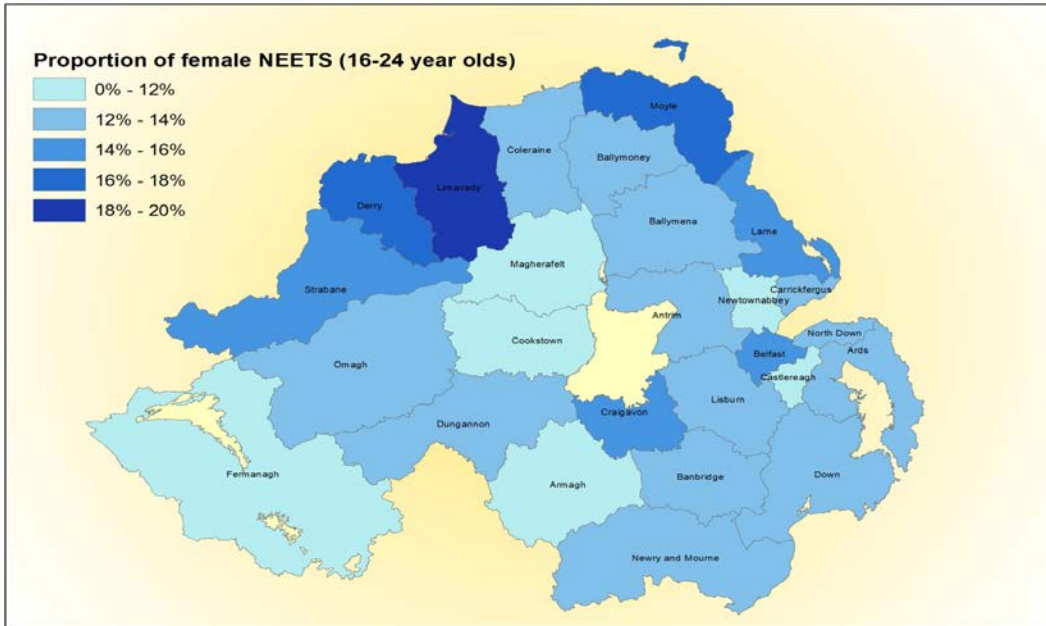
The proportion of the 16-24 year old male population which is NEET varies across Local Government Districts from 11.9% to 23.6%, and the NI average is 15.9%. The highest levels of male NEETs are in Limavady, Derry and Moyle (23.6%, 21.1% and 20.0% respectively). The Local Government Districts with the lowest levels of male NEETs are Newtownabbey, North Down and Cookstown with respective proportions of 11.9%, 12.6% and 13.4%. North Down is the only District where the proportion of Males who are NEET (12.6%) is lower than the total rate (12.7%). In other words, young males are more likely to be NEET than young females in all areas except North Down.



Source: Census 2011

3. NEETs by Local Government District - Females

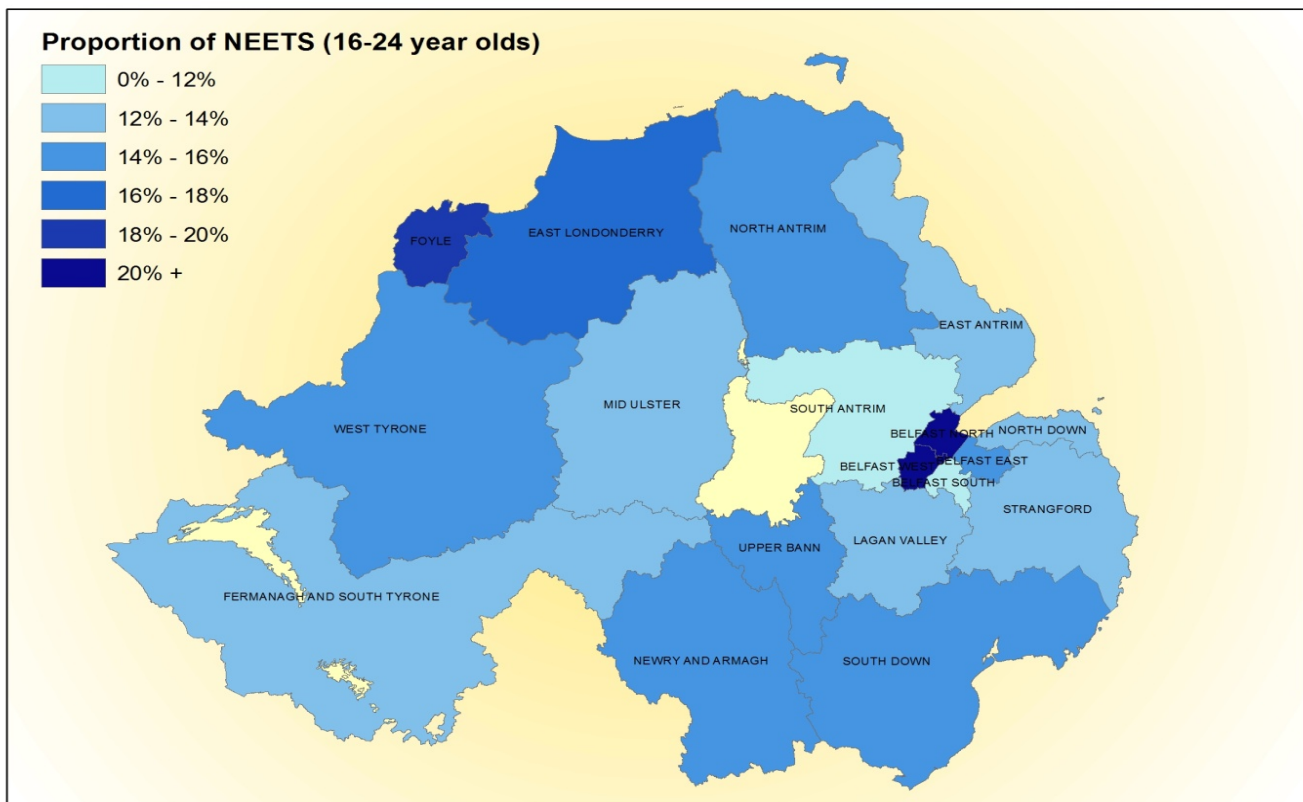
The proportion of the 16-24 year old female population which is NEET varies across the Local Government Districts from 10.0% to 18.8%, and the NI average is 13.5%. Female NEETs levels are lower than those of males in all Districts except for North Down with 12.8% of the young female population who are NEET compared to 12.6% of young males. The highest levels of female NEETs are in Limavady, Derry and Moyle (18.8%, 17.3% and 16.2% respectively). Districts with the lowest levels of female NEETs are Magherafelt, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey and Cookstown (10.0%, 10.3%, 10.5% and 10.5% respectively).



Source: Census 2011

4. NEETs by Assembly Areas (Annex 2)

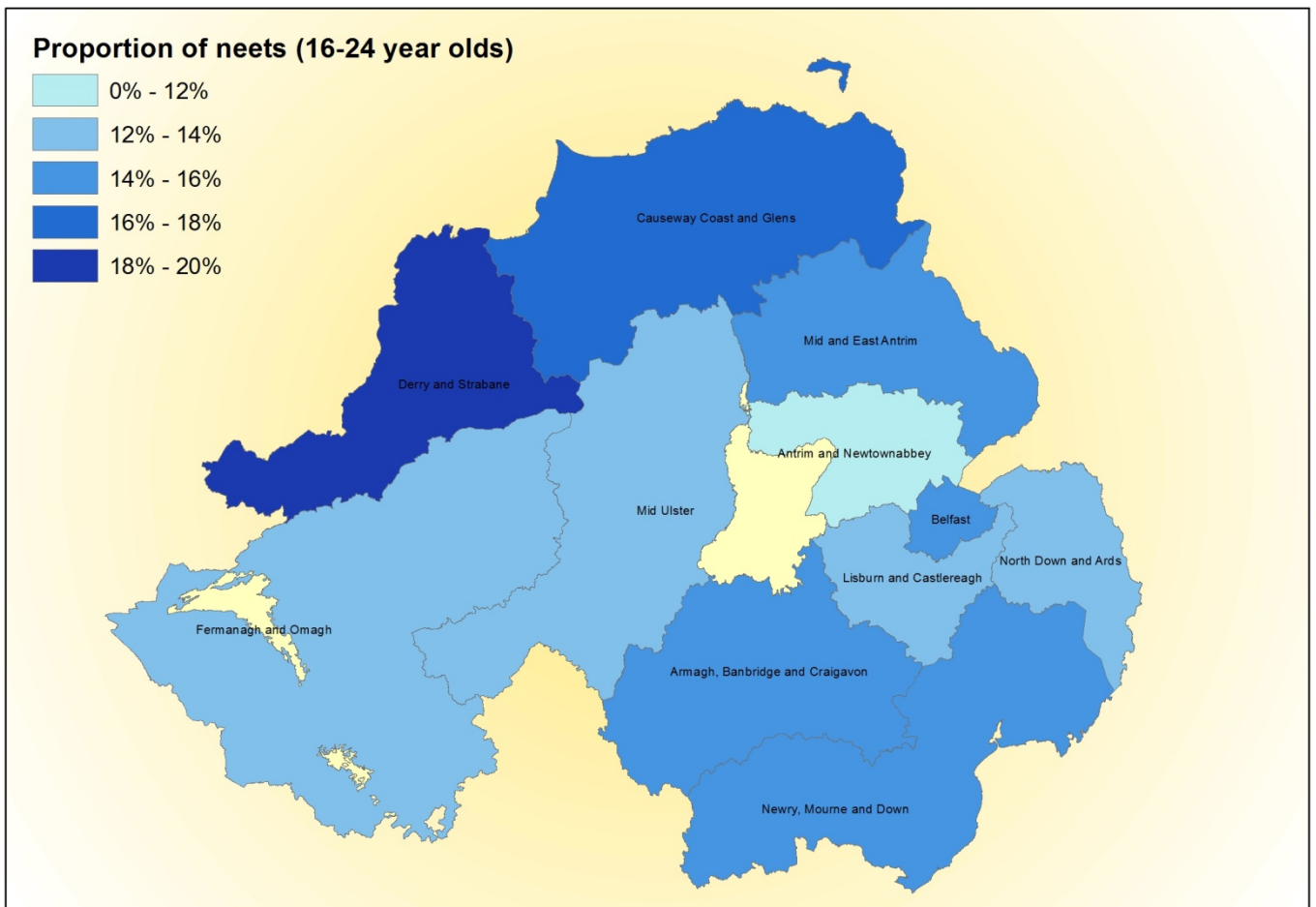
The proportion of the 16-24 year old population which is NEET varies across Assembly Areas/Parliamentary Constituencies from 8.7% to 21.3%, compared to the NI average of 14.7%. The highest levels are in Belfast West, Belfast North and Foyle (21.3%, 20.9% and 19.3% respectively). The lowest proportions of NEETs are in Belfast South, South Antrim and Lagan Valley (8.7%, 12.0% and 12.1% respectively).



Source: Census 2011

5. NEETs by New District Council Areas (Annex 3)

The proportion of the 16-24 year old population which is NEET varies across the new District Council Areas from 11.9% to 18.7%, compared to the NI average of 14.7%. The highest level is in Derry and Strabane (18.7%). The lowest proportions of NEETs are in Antrim and Newtownabbey (11.9%).



Annex 1

NEETs Proportions by Local Government District

Geography		All NEETS		Male NEETS		Female NEETS	
LGD1992 Name	LGD1992 Code	Count	Proportions	Count	Proportions	Count	Proportions
Antrim	95AA	818	13.2%	437	13.7%	381	12.7%
Ards	95BB	1,159	14.1%	638	15.1%	521	13.1%
Armagh	95CC	972	13.3%	568	14.6%	404	11.8%
Ballymena	95DD	1,015	14.2%	567	15.0%	448	13.3%
Ballymoney	95EE	592	15.9%	357	18.5%	235	13.2%
Banbridge	95FF	722	13.4%	401	14.0%	321	12.7%
Belfast	95GG	6,802	15.8%	3,511	16.8%	3,291	14.8%
Carrickfergus	95HH	609	13.4%	338	14.3%	271	12.3%
Castlereagh	95II	901	12.3%	532	14.2%	369	10.3%
Coleraine	95JJ	1,103	14.1%	594	15.6%	509	12.6%
Cookstown	95KK	587	12.0%	332	13.4%	255	10.5%
Craigavon	95LL	1,806	15.9%	957	16.5%	849	15.3%
Derry	95MM	2,816	19.1%	1,534	21.1%	1,282	17.3%
Down	95NN	1,281	14.7%	716	15.9%	565	13.5%
Dungannon	95OO	1,032	14.0%	566	15.0%	466	13.0%
Fermanagh	95PP	891	12.6%	514	13.6%	377	11.4%
Larne	95QQ	541	15.1%	294	16.1%	247	14.0%
Limavady	95RR	916	21.3%	533	23.6%	383	18.8%
Lisburn	95SS	1,997	13.7%	1,083	14.3%	914	13.0%
Magherafelt	95TT	725	12.4%	440	14.7%	285	10.0%
Moyle	95UU	361	18.2%	208	20.0%	153	16.2%
Newry & Mourne	95VV	1,874	15.1%	1,099	17.2%	775	12.8%
Newtownabbey	95WW	1,185	11.2%	643	11.9%	542	10.5%
North Down	95XX	1,038	12.7%	538	12.6%	500	12.8%
Omagh	95YY	928	14.7%	557	17.2%	371	12.1%
Strabane	95ZZ	845	17.4%	480	19.3%	365	15.4%
Total		33,516	14.7%	18,437	15.9%	15,079	13.5%

Annex 2

NEETs Proportions by Assembly Area

Geography		All NEETS	
AA2008 Name	AA2008 Code	Count	Proportions
Belfast East	N06000001	1,530	15.5%
Belfast North	N06000002	2,656	20.9%
Belfast South	N06000003	1,823	8.7%
Belfast West	N06000004	2,968	21.3%
East Antrim	N06000005	1,383	12.1%
East Londonderry	N06000006	2,145	16.6%
Fermanagh And South Tyrone	N06000007	1,576	13.0%
Foyle	N06000008	2,690	19.3%
Lagan Valley	N06000009	1,342	12.1%
Mid Ulster	N06000010	1,659	12.7%
Newry And Armagh	N06000011	2,083	14.8%
North Antrim	N06000012	1,904	15.4%
North Down	N06000013	1,160	12.7%
South Antrim	N06000014	1,346	12.0%
South Down	N06000015	1,902	14.0%
Strangford	N06000016	1,329	13.6%
Upper Bann	N06000017	2,247	15.8%
West Tyrone	N06000018	1,773	15.9%
Total		33,516	14.7%

Annex 3

NEETs Proportions by New District Council Area

Geography		NEETs
LGD2014 name	LGD2014 code	Proportions
Antrim and Newtownabbey	N09000001	11.9%
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	N09000002	14.5%
Belfast	N09000003	15.8%
Causeway Coast and Glens	N09000004	16.7%
Derry and Strabane	N09000005	18.7%
Fermanagh and Omagh	N09000006	13.6%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	N09000007	13.2%
Mid and East Antrim	N09000008	14.1%
Mid Ulster	N09000009	12.9%
Newry, Mourne and Down	N09000010	14.9%
North Down and Ards	N09000011	13.4%
Total		14.7%

**NEETS – number and proportions by:
Qualification;
Disability and,
Assembly Area**

Qualification	Age band		
	All 16-19	All 20-24	All 16-24
No qualifications	2,566	7,135	9,701
Level 1 qualifications	2,363	5,469	7,832
Level 2 qualifications	1,744	5,106	6,850
Apprenticeship	196	1,009	1,205
Level 3 qualifications	974	3,490	4,464
Level 4 qualifications and above	95	2,493	2,588
Other qualifications	177	699	876
Total	8,115	25,401	33,516

Qualification	Age band		
	All 16-19	All 20-24	All 16-24
No qualifications	32%	28%	29%
Level 1 qualifications	29%	22%	23%
Level 2 qualifications	21%	20%	20%
Apprenticeship	2%	4%	4%
Level 3 qualifications	12%	14%	13%
Level 4 qualifications and above	1%	10%	8%
Other qualifications	2%	3%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Disability	Age band		
	16-19	20-24	Total
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	588	2,645	3,233
Day-to-day activities limited a little	508	2,030	2,538
Day-to-day activities not limited	7,019	20,726	27,745
total	8,115	25,401	33,516

Disability	Age band		
	16-19	20-24	Total
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	7%	10%	10%
Day-to-day activities limited a little	6%	8%	8%
Day-to-day activities not limited	86%	82%	83%
total	100%	100%	100%

NEETS proportions by Assembly Area and Age band (as a % of the total age group in that area)

Assembly Area Code	Assembly Area Name	Age band		
		16-19	19-20	16-24
N06000001	Belfast East	9%	20%	16%
N06000002	Belfast North	11%	28%	21%
N06000003	Belfast South	6%	10%	9%
N06000004	Belfast West	10%	31%	21%
N06000005	East Antrim	7%	17%	12%
N06000006	East Londonderry	9%	23%	17%
N06000007	Fermanagh And South Tyrone	7%	18%	13%
N06000008	Foyle	10%	28%	19%
N06000009	Lagan Valley	7%	16%	12%
N06000010	Mid Ulster	6%	18%	13%
N06000011	Newry And Armagh	8%	21%	15%
N06000012	North Antrim	9%	21%	15%
N06000013	North Down	7%	17%	13%
N06000014	South Antrim	7%	16%	12%
N06000015	South Down	7%	20%	14%
N06000016	Strangford	8%	19%	14%
N06000017	Upper Bann	9%	21%	16%
N06000018	West Tyrone	7%	24%	16%
Total		8%	20%	15%

Assembly Area Code	Assembly Area Name	Age band		
		16-19	19-20	16-24
N06000001	Belfast East	413	1,117	1,530
N06000002	Belfast North	639	2,017	2,656
N06000003	Belfast South	462	1,361	1,823
N06000004	Belfast West	663	2,305	2,968
N06000005	East Antrim	382	1,001	1,383
N06000006	East Londonderry			

		519	1,626	2,145
N06000007	Fermanagh And South Tyrone	354	1,222	1,576
N06000008	Foyle	619	2,071	2,690
N06000009	Lagan Valley	365	977	1,342
N06000010	Mid Ulster	353	1,306	1,659
N06000011	Newry And Armagh	479	1,604	2,083
N06000012	North Antrim	491	1,413	1,904
N06000013	North Down	289	871	1,160
N06000014	South Antrim	370	976	1,346
N06000015	South Down	441	1,461	1,902
N06000016	Strangford	364	965	1,329
N06000017	Upper Bann	559	1,688	2,247
N06000018	West Tyrone	353	1,420	1,773
Total		8,115	25,401	33,516

NEETS as a percentage of all NEETS (i.e. how the 100% are distributed)

Assembly Area Code	Assembly Area Name	Age band		
		16-19	19-20	16-24
N06000001	Belfast East	5%	4%	5%
N06000002	Belfast North	8%	8%	8%
N06000003	Belfast South	6%	5%	5%
N06000004	Belfast West	8%	9%	9%
N06000005	East Antrim	5%	4%	4%
N06000006	East Londonderry	6%	6%	6%
N06000007	Fermanagh And South Tyrone	4%	5%	5%
N06000008	Foyle	8%	8%	8%
N06000009	Lagan Valley	4%	4%	4%
N06000010	Mid Ulster	4%	5%	5%
N06000011	Newry And Armagh	6%	6%	6%
N06000012	North Antrim	6%	6%	6%
N06000013	North Down	4%	3%	3%
N06000014	South Antrim	5%	4%	4%

N06000015	South Down	5%	6%	6%
N06000016	Strangford	4%	4%	4%
N06000017	Upper Bann	7%	7%	7%
N06000018	West Tyrone	4%	6%	5%
Total		100%	100%	100%

NEETs Totals/Rates, 2012 – 2014 (Unadjusted)

	Male		Female		All persons	
	Total (000's)	Rate (%)	Total (000's)	Rate (%)	Total (000's)	Rate (%)
Oct-Dec 2012	19,000	17.5	16,000	14.8	35,000	16.2
Jan-Mar 2013	18,000	16.6	15,000	13.6	33,000	15.1
Apr-Jun 2013	17,000	15.4	17,000	15.5	34,000	15.4
Jul-Sep 2013	15,000	13.2	20,000	19.0	35,000	16.1
Oct-Dec 2013	15,000	13.2	20,000	19.0	35,000	16.1
Jan-Mar 2014	19,000	17.0	13,000	12.3	32,000	14.7
Apr-Jun 2014	19,000	17.7	12,000	11.8	32,000	14.8
Jul-Sep 2014	22,000	20.3	14,000	13.2	36,000	16.8

Census Definition: Highest level of qualification

Level 1:

1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic/Essential Skills (England & Wales & Northern Ireland)

Level 2:

5+ O Level (Passes)/CSEs (Grade 1)/GCSEs (Grades A*-C), School Certificate, 1 A Level/ 2-3 AS Levels/ VCEs, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/General Diploma, RSA Diploma (England & Wales & Northern Ireland)

Level 3:

2+ A Levels/VCEs, 4+ AS Levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression/Advanced Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma, NVQ Level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma (England & Wales & Northern Ireland)

Level 4+:

Degree (for example BA, BSc), Higher Degree (for example MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Foundation degree (NI), Professional qualifications (for example teaching, nursing, accountancy) (England & Wales & Northern Ireland)

Other: Vocational/Work-related Qualifications, Foreign Qualifications/ Qualifications gained outside the UK (NI) (Not stated/ level unknown) (England & Wales & Northern Ireland)

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