



# Labour Market Profile

## Northern Workforce Development Forum

### KEY FIGURES

- **Table 1** shows the working age employment rate in the Northern WDF was 67.4%, 1.6 percentage points higher than Northern Ireland as a whole.
- The working age economic activity rate (**Table 1**) in the Northern WDF was 70.9%, in line with Northern Ireland as a whole.
- **Table 1** shows the working age economic inactivity rate in the Northern WDF was 29.1%, in line with Northern Ireland as a whole.
- **Table 2** shows that the claimant count rate at 2011 in the Northern WDF was 4.2%, which is 0.9% points lower than Northern Ireland as a whole.

**Table 1. Economic activity, inactivity and employment of the working age population for the Northern WDF, 2010**

	Northern WDF		Northern Ireland
	Number	%	%
Employment	180,000	67.4	65.8
Economic Activity	189,000	70.9	70.9
Economic Inactivity	78,000	29.1	29.1

Source: Labour Force Survey Local Area Database 2010, DFP

Working Age=16-64

As the LFS is a sample survey, all data is subject to sampling error

**Table 2. Claimant count as a proportion of the resident working age population for the Northern WDF, 2011**

	Northern WDF		Northern Ireland
	Number	%	%
Claimant Count	11,323	4.2	5.1

Source: Claimant Count, DFP

## **OVERVIEW OF THE WORKFORCE IN THE NORTHERN WDF**

This report provides a labour market profile for the Northern WDF in Northern Ireland. Similar profiles have been developed for the five remaining WDFs as well as an overall report for Northern Ireland. Northern WDF comprises Coleraine Borough Council, Ballymena Borough Council, Ballymoney Borough Council, Moyle District Council, Antrim Borough Council, Newtownabbey Borough Council, Larne Borough Council, Carrickfergus Borough Council and Magherafelt District Council. The content is based on official information sources.

### **POPULATION**

- The population of the Northern WDF in 2010 was 422,091, with 49.2% being males (207,519) and 50.8% being females (214,572).
- Between 2000 and 2010 the population of the Northern WDF increased by 28,745 (7.3%).
- The working age population in the Northern WDF was 257,363 in 2010.
- The working age population increased by 16,417 (6.8%) between 2000 and 2010.
- The number of young people in the Northern WDF (aged 16-24) increased by 3,746 between 2000 and 2010. This is an increase of 8.1%.
- The number of 25-49 year olds in the Northern WDF increased by 4,164 between 2000 and 2010. This is an increase of 3.0%.
- The number of people aged 50-59/64 increased by 8,507 between 2000 and 2010. This is an increase of 15.8%.

### **WORKFORCE EMPLOYMENT**

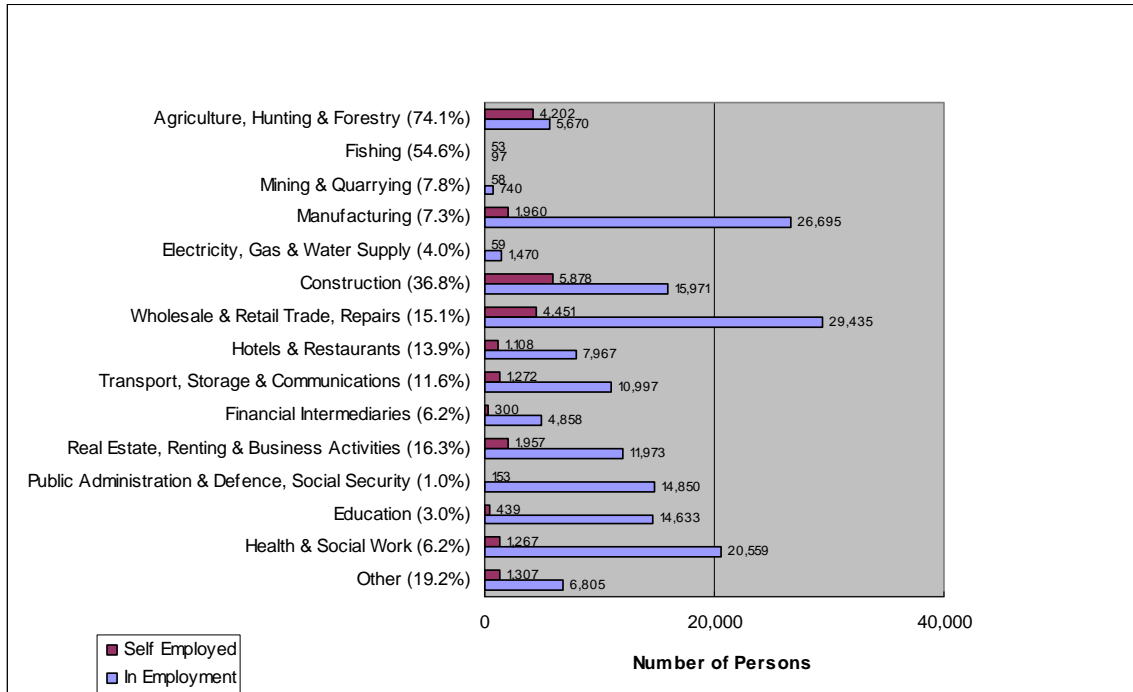
There were 145,763 employee jobs in the Northern WDF in 2009. This represented a decrease of 4,956 (3.3%) since 2007.

- Females made up 51.5% of all employees in the Northern WDF in 2009. The number of female jobs decreased by 0.7% between 2007 and 2009. Male employment in the Northern WDF decreased by 5.9% in the same period.
- Almost two thirds (63.8%) of jobs were full-time in 2009. Full-time jobs decreased by 6.8% between 2007 and 2009, and part-time jobs increased by 3.6%.

## SELF EMPLOYED

- **Figure 1** shows that in 2001, 74.1% of those persons aged between 16 and 74 in Agriculture, Hunting & Forestry in the Northern WDF were self-employed.
- 54.6% of persons in Fishing in the Northern WDF were self-employed as were 36.8% of persons in Construction (**Figure 1**).
- **Figure 1** shows that 3.0% of persons aged between 16 and 74 in Education were self-employed as were 1.0% of persons in Public Administration & Defence, Social Security.

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



(%) = % Self Employed

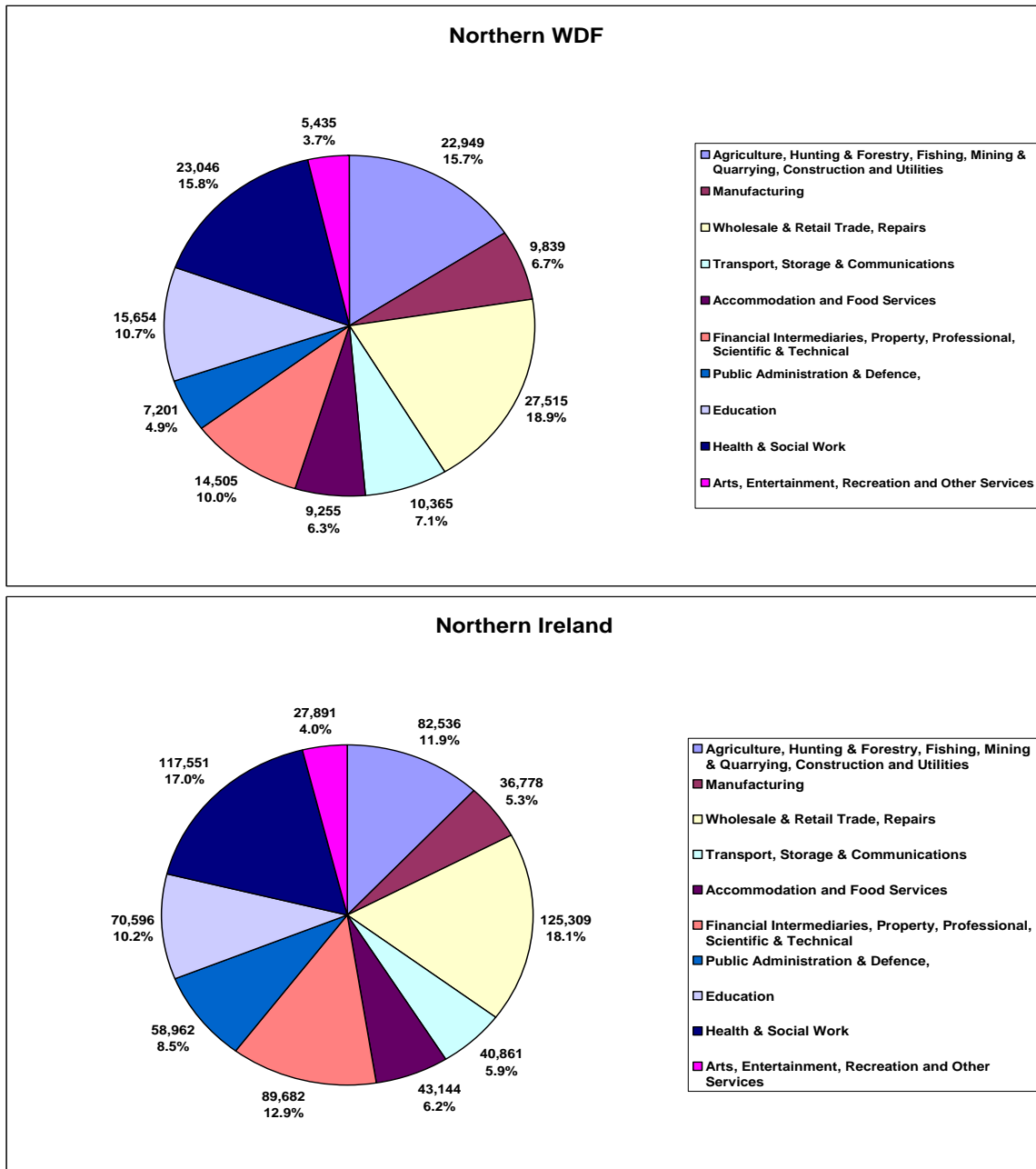
Source: Census 2001

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

## INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE

- **Figure 2** shows that almost one fifth of jobs were in Wholesale & Retail Trade, Repairs (18.9%). This was followed by 15.8% of jobs in Health & Social Work.
- In 2009, Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Other Services accounted for 5,435 jobs (**Figure 2**) in the Northern WDF (3.7%).

**Figure 2. Employee jobs by industrial sector for the Northern WDF and Northern Ireland, 2009**



Source: Census of Employment 2009, DFP

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

**Table 3** shows:

- In the Northern WDF there was a decline in Employee Jobs of -3.4% (4,956), lower than Northern Ireland as a whole.
- That Manufacturing decreased by 20.3% (2,001 jobs) between 2007 and 2009, followed by Agriculture, Hunting & Forestry, Fishing, Mining & Quarrying, Construction and Utilities which decreased by 15.4%.
- Between 2007 and 2009 Health & Social Work increased by 5.6% which equates to a gain of 1,288 jobs in the Northern WDF.
- Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Other Services increased by 269 jobs (4.9%) between 2007 and 2009.

**Table 3. Change in Employee Jobs by industrial sector for the Northern WDF, September 2007 to September 2009**

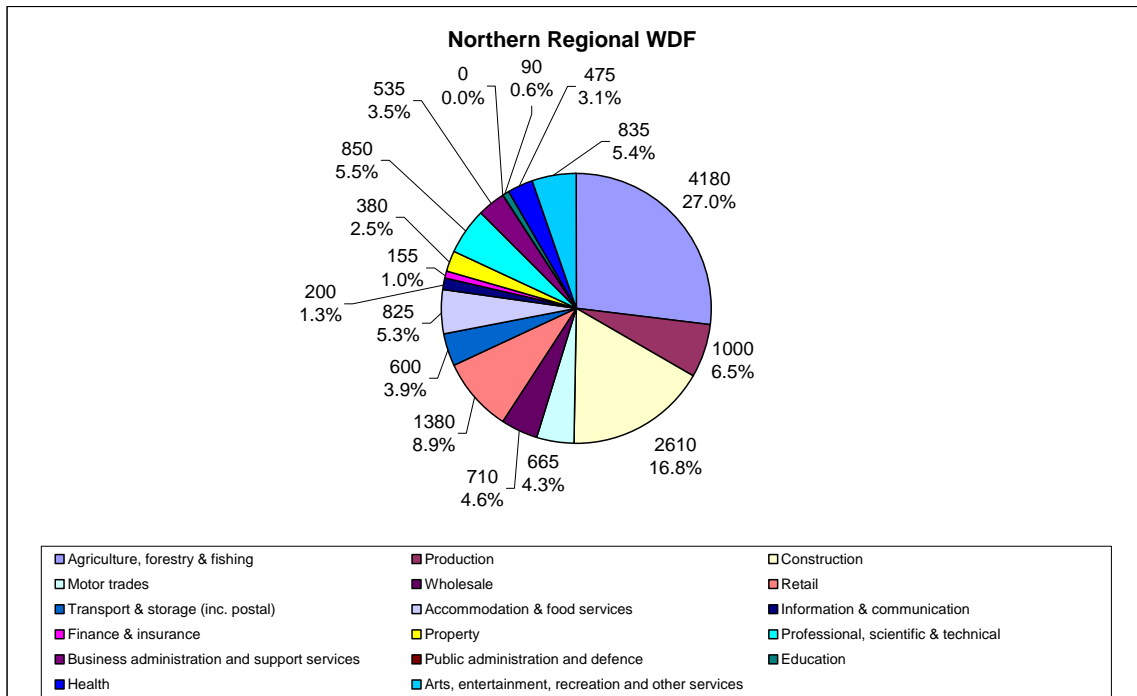
	Absolute change in Northern WDF	% Change in Northern WDF	% Change in Northern Ireland
Agriculture, Hunting & Forestry, Fishing, Mining & Quarrying, Construction and Utilities	-3,529	-15.4	-13.8
Manufacturing	-2,001	-20.3	-23.2
Wholesale & Retail Trade, Repairs	-103	-0.4	-0.1
Transport, Storage & Communications	-24	-0.2	-3.0
Accommodation and Food Services	+60	+0.6	-0.6
Financial Intermediaries, Property, Professional, Scientific & Technical	-940	-6.5	-1.7
Public Administration & Defence	-183	-2.5	+1.2
Education	+208	+1.3	+2.0
Health & Social Work	+1,288	+5.6	+2.6
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Other Services	+269	+4.9	+2.0
TOTAL	-4,956	-3.4	-2.5

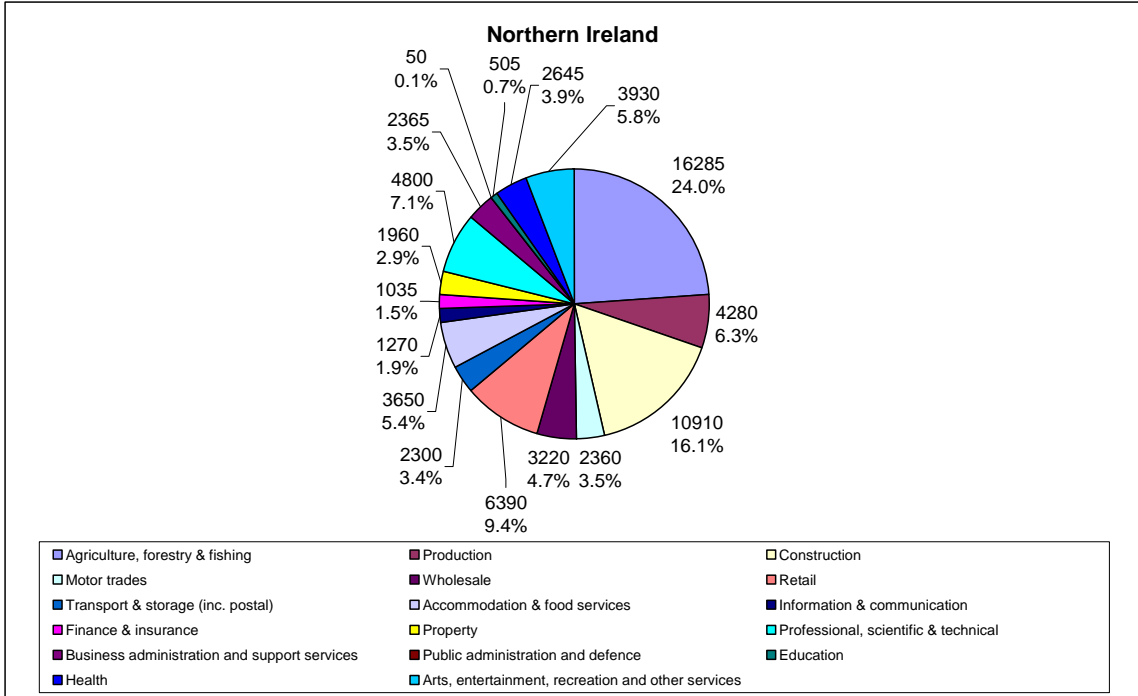
Source: Census of Employment 2009, DFP

## VAT REGISTERED ENTERPRISES

- In 2011 there were a total of 15,490 VAT registered businesses in the Northern WDF. Of these over a quarter were in Agriculture (27%) while under a fifth (16.8%) were in Construction (**Figure 3**).
- The number of VAT registered businesses decreased by between 2010 and 2011 within the Northern WDF (0.2%). This was lower than for Northern Ireland as a whole (0.8%).

**Figure 3. Number of VAT registered businesses by industrial sector for the Northern WDF and Northern Ireland, 2011**





Source: UK Business: Activity, Size & Location 2011

Notes:

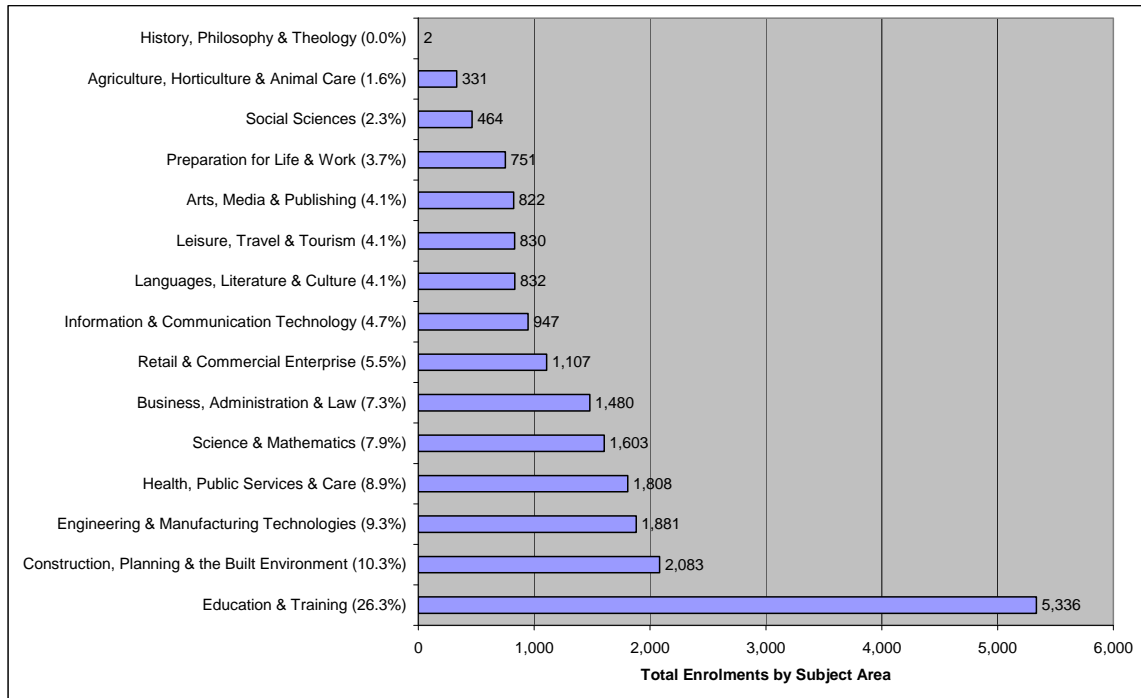
1. Figures may not sum to total and percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
2. Analysis now includes VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses instead of just VAT registered businesses as in the past.

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

## FURTHER EDUCATION

- **Figure 4** shows that 26.3% of enrolments in 2010/11 at the Northern Regional College were in Education and Training courses and 10.3% of enrolments were in Construction, Planning & the built Environment courses.
- 1.6% of enrolments were in Agriculture, Horticulture & Animal Care courses and 2.3% of enrolments were in Social Sciences courses. There were 2 enrolments on History, Philosophy & Theology courses (**Figure 4**).

**Figure 4. Enrolments in Northern Regional College by subject area, 2010/2011**



(%) = % enrolments by subject area

Source: FESR

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



## QUALIFICATIONS

- **Table 4** shows that in 2001, 41.5% of the Northern WDF working age population had no qualifications. This compares to 41.6% of the Northern Ireland working age population who also had no qualifications.
- In 2001, 43.7% of the Northern WDF working age population had qualification Levels 1, 2 or 3 (A-level or less). This compares to 42.6% of the Northern Ireland working age population who had the same level of qualifications (**Table 4**).
- **Table 4** shows that in 2001, 14.8% of the Northern WDF working age population had qualification Levels 4 and 5 (First degree and higher). This compares to 15.8% of the Northern Ireland working age population who had the same level of qualifications.

**Table 4. Qualification levels of the working age population in the Northern WDF**

		All persons	No qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Northern WDF	No.	280,940	116,656	50,294	47,830	24,621	29,700	11,839
	%	100.0	41.5	17.9	17.0	8.8	10.6	4.2
Northern Ireland	%	100.0	41.6	17.2	16.4	9.0	10.9	4.9

Source: Census 2001

Notes:

1. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

2. Qualification NVQ Levels

No qualifications: No qualifications

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

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

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

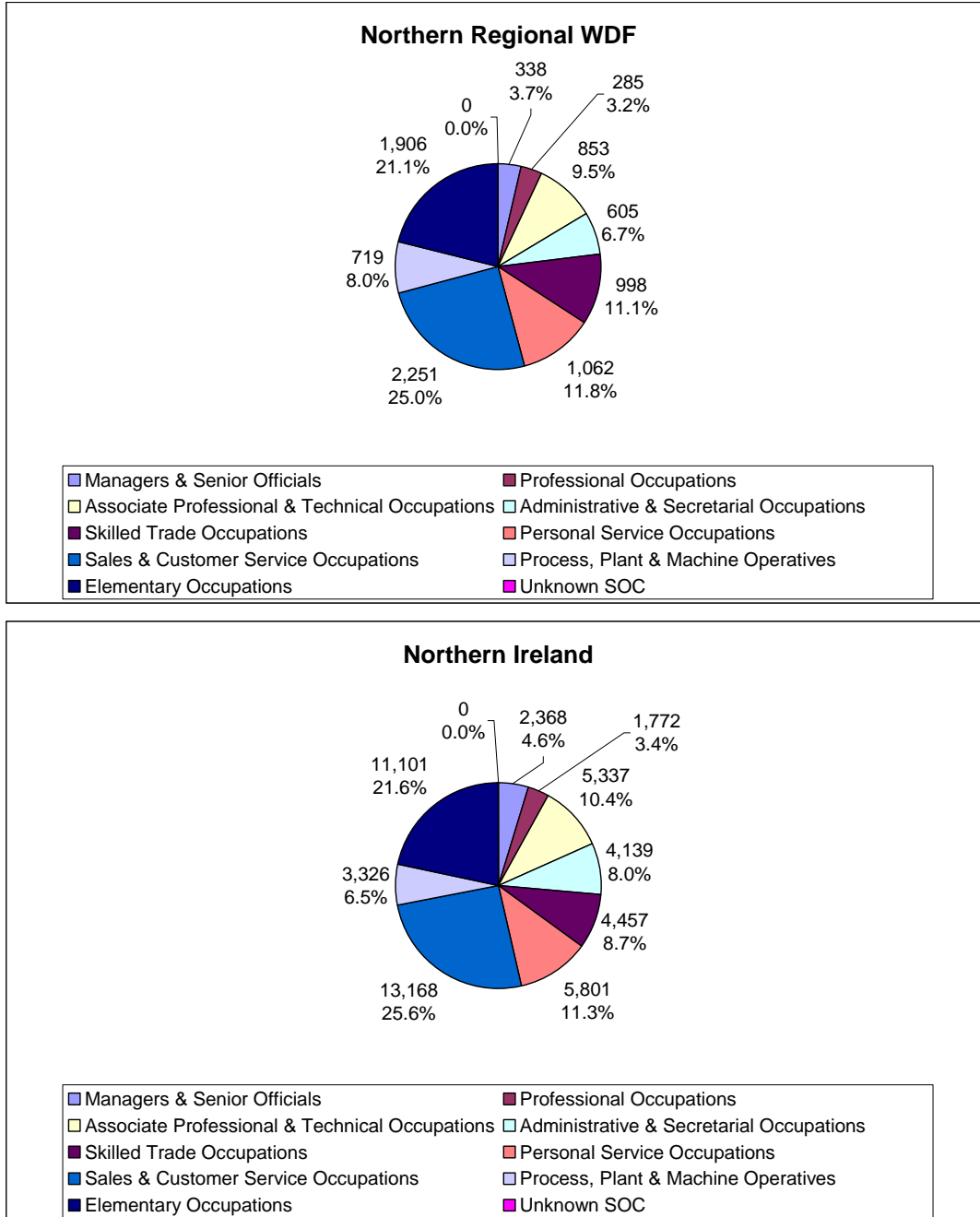
Level 4: First Degree, NVQ Level 4, HNC, HND or equivalents

Level 5: Higher Degree, NVQ Level 5 or equivalents

## VACANCIES

- **Figure 5** shows that in 2010 just over a fifth of all notified vacancies in the Northern WDF were in Elementary Occupations (21.1%), whilst a quarter (25%) were in Sales & Customer Service Occupations.
- In 2010, the smallest number of vacancies were in Professional Occupations accounting for 3.2% of all vacancies (**Figure 5**).

**Figure 5. Notified vacancies for the Northern WDF and Northern Ireland, 2010**



Source: Client Management System, DEL

Notes:

- (1) All statistics are derived from data extracted from the Department for Employment and Learning Client Management System (CMS) on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011
- (2) Vacancies notified are all vacancy positions notified and added to JobCentres / Jobs and Benefits Offices of the Department for Employment and Learning.
- (3) Workforce Development Forum (WDF) areas are assigned to vacancies based on the postcode of the employers account. When a valid employer's account postcode is not available, the postcode of the vacancy is used. When both employer and vacancy postcode are incorrect/incomplete/outside of Northern Ireland, the WDF of the vacancy is recorded as unknown.
- (4) Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
- (5) Occupations are taken from the Standard Occupational Classification 2000.

## REDUNDANCIES

- **Table 5** shows that in 2011 there were 422 confirmed redundancies in the Northern WDF. This equates to 23.4% of the total number of redundancies in Northern Ireland in 2011.
- During the period 2010 to 2011, the number of confirmed redundancies in the Northern WDF increased by 6% (**Table 5**).

**Table 5. Confirmed Redundancies for the Northern WDF, 2006 to 2011**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Northern WDF	971	588	453	940	398	422
Northern Ireland	3143	1912	2782	4596	2096	1804
Redundancies in the Northern WDF as a % of Northern Ireland total	30.9	30.8	16.3	20.5	19.0	23.4

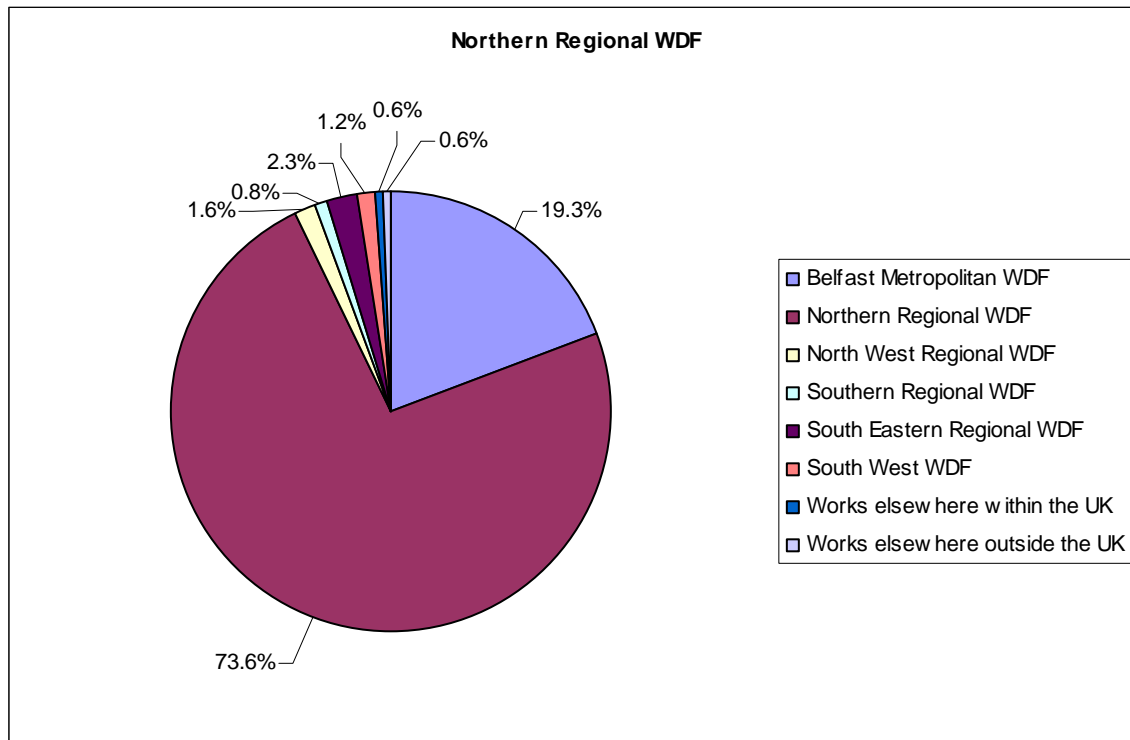
*Source: Redundancies, DFP*

Note: Under the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (Amended 8 October 2006) companies are only legally required to notify the Department of impending redundancies of 20 or more employees, hence these figures underestimate the total number of losses. The above figures represent the number of people confirmed to the Department as subsequently being made redundant.

## TRAVEL TO WORK

- **Figure 6** shows that in 2001, 98.8% of the persons living in the Northern WDF who were in employment worked in Northern Ireland. 0.6% worked elsewhere within the UK and 0.6% worked elsewhere outside the UK, (0.4% in Republic of Ireland, 0.2% Other).
- In 2001, 14.3% of persons living in the Northern WDF who were in employment in 2001 worked in Ballymena. This was followed by 12.8% in Newtownabbey, 11.6% in Coleraine, 11.1% in Antrim, 6.7% in Magherafelt, 5.2% in Larne, 4.9% in Ballymoney, 4.9% in Carrickfergus and 2.2% in Moyle.
- **Figure 6** shows that in 2001, 73.6% of persons living in the Northern WDF work within this WDF, whilst 25.2% of persons living in the Northern WDF work in other WDFs, 0.6% worked elsewhere within the UK and 0.6% worked elsewhere outside the UK, (0.4% in Republic of Ireland, 0.2% Other).

**Figure 6. Travel to work patterns of residents from the Northern WDF**



Source: Census 2001

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

## Tomorrow's Economy and Labour Market

In 2010 DEL published reports for all of the Workforce Development Forum areas on future skill needs based on work carried out by Oxford Economics<sup>1</sup>. The forecasts are based on two scenarios about the NI (and hence WDF) economy: a **baseline scenario**, which details the central estimates assuming no step change to the economy; and an **aspirational scenario**, based on NI achieving the productivity targets laid out in the Executive's Programme for Government<sup>2</sup>.

Like all forecasts, the data shown below represent the central estimates at the time the analysis was carried out (Summer 2009) and will be subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The results for the Northern WDF area are contained in **Table 6**.

**Table 6. Sectoral Employment Forecasts to 2020**

	WDF Change (000s)			
	1998-2008	2008-2010	2010-2020 baseline	2010-2020 aspirational
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	-3.5	-0.2	-0.1	0.3
Mining & quarrying	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Manufacturing	-4.0	-2.5	-2.5	-1.8
Utilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	6.7	-3.5	2.4	3.2
Retail & distribution	7.1	-1.1	2.7	3.3
Hotels & restaurants	1.6	-0.5	1.3	2.2
Transport & communications	4.5	-0.8	1.5	2.5
Financial services	0.3	-0.2	0.3	0.6
Business services	8.8	-1.0	6.2	8.9
Public administration & defence	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.0
Land forces	-2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education	1.2	0.1	0.9	1.0
Health & social work	4.5	0.4	2.8	2.8
Other personal services	1.8	-0.3	0.7	1.2
<b>Total employment (job-based)</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>-9.8</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>24.1</b>
<b>Total employment (jobs per annum)</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Total employment (people-based)</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>-9.2</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>

Source: Oxford Economics

Note: People-based excludes Government training schemes

<sup>1</sup> Oxford Economics (2010) Workforce Future Skill Needs Analysis: Northern Workforce Development Forum Report [www.delni.gov.uk/northern\\_workforce\\_analysis\\_final\\_report\\_feb\\_2010.pdf](http://www.delni.gov.uk/northern_workforce_analysis_final_report_feb_2010.pdf). These reports are based in Oxford Economics's NI Policy Simulation model and forecasts were produced in the summer of 2009. It should be noted that all forecasts are workplace-based, not residence based – it thus takes no account of commuting patterns

<sup>2</sup> Available at [www.pfgbudgetni.gov.uk/finalpfg.pdf](http://www.pfgbudgetni.gov.uk/finalpfg.pdf)

## Key Points:

- **The Downturn:** The Northern economy's recent period of strong growth is forecast to have come to an abrupt end during the recession. Oxford Economics's central outlook for the Northern economy is for approximately **10,000 net job losses between 2008 and 2010** (mid-year figures), equivalent to 5% of total jobs. Losses are forecast across a number of sectors, although almost two thirds are forecast across construction and manufacturing.
- **Baseline Scenario:** Looking beyond the recession, the central prediction is for **net job growth of 1,600 per annum** (pa), a smaller level of net expansion compared to that of the past decade, with employment expected to reach its 2008 level by around 2016.
- **Further sectoral growth is predicted to be driven by business services** (e.g. sub sectors ranging from accountancy, consultancy, ICT and call centres) **and health & social work** (which will be largely dependent on health spending being shielded from public sector budget cuts). Beyond the recession there will also be a 'bounce back' recovery in construction and retail though the full road to recovery in construction will be long.
- **Aspirational Scenario** – This suggests that the Northern WDF area could grow by around 2,400 jobs per year (and around 24,000 over the period to 2020). Given the nature of the scenario and the sectoral pattern of employment uplift, a high proportion of the additional scenario jobs (hi-tech manufacturing and 'potential' service exporting sectors) will be 'urban-friendly'.

## **USEFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Expert Group on Future Skills Needs – Republic of Ireland

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

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

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

UK Labour Market Trends

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

Office for National Statistics

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

Careers Service Northern Ireland

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers>

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

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