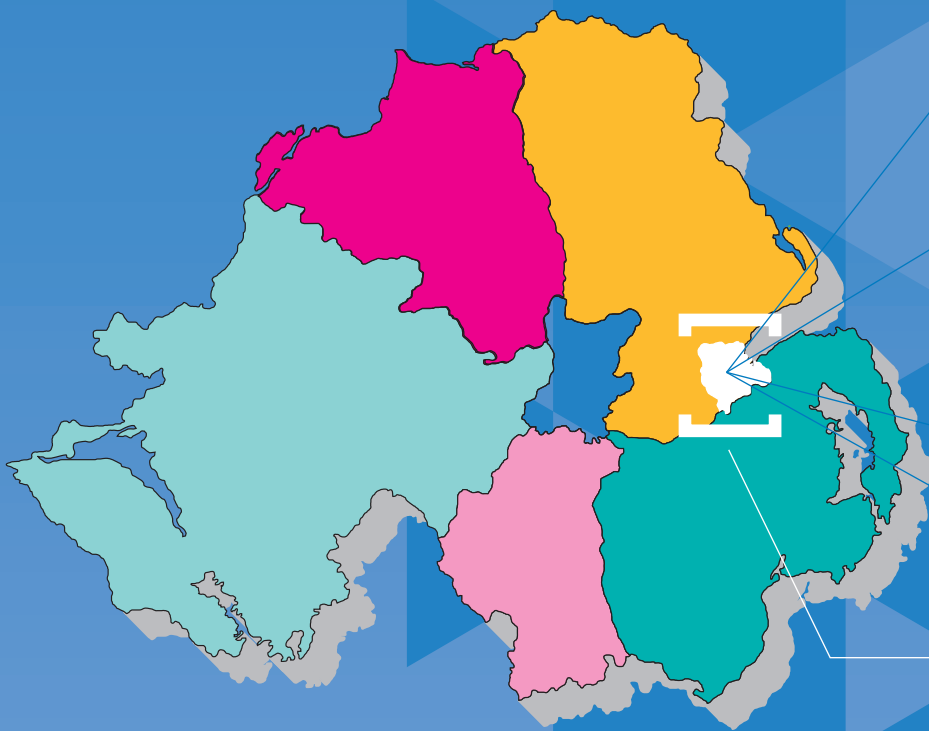




# Labour Market Profile



Belfast  
Metropolitan  
Workforce  
Development  
Forum

## KEY FIGURES

- The working age employment rate (Table 1) in Belfast Metropolitan WDF was 69.4%, 0.7 percentage points higher than Northern Ireland as a whole.
- The working age economic activity rate (Table 1) in Belfast Metropolitan WDF was 73.7%, 1.4 percentage points higher than Northern Ireland as a whole.
- The working age inactivity rate (Table 1) in Belfast Metropolitan WDF was 28.1%, 0.4 percentage points higher than Northern Ireland as a whole.
- The claimant count rate (Table 2) in Belfast Metropolitan WDF at July 2008 was 3.7%, 1.2 percentage points higher than Northern Ireland as a whole.

**Table 1: Economic activity, inactivity and employment as at 2006 for Belfast Metropolitan WDF**

	Belfast Metropolitan WDF		Northern Ireland
	Number	%	%
Employment	136,000	69.4%	68.7%
Economic Activity	144,000	73.7%	72.3%
Economic Inactivity	53,000	28.1%	27.7%

**Source:** Northern Ireland District Council Briefing, DETI

**Table 2: Claimant count as a proportion of the resident working age population as at July 2008 for Belfast Metropolitan WDF**

	Belfast Metropolitan WDF		Northern Ireland
	Number	%	%
Claimant Count	6,989	3.7%	2.5%

**Source:** Northern Ireland District Council Briefing, DETI

## OVERVIEW OF THE WORKFORCE IN BELFAST METROPOLITAN WDF

This report provides a labour market profile for the Belfast Metropolitan WDF in Northern Ireland. Similar profiles have been developed for the five remaining WDF's, as these will be the geographical breakdowns by which statistics are produced in the future. Belfast Metropolitan WDF comprises Belfast City Council and Castlereagh District Council. The content is based on official information sources.

### POPULATION

- The population of Belfast Metropolitan WDF in 2007 was 333,097, with 47.4% being males (157,779) and 52.6% being females (175,318).
- Between 1997 and 2007 the population of the Belfast Metropolitan WDF has decreased by 20,782 (5.9%).
- The working age population in Belfast Metropolitan WDF was 207,078 in 2007.
- The working age population has decreased by 2,431 (1.2%) between 1997 and 2007.
- The number of young people in Belfast Metropolitan WDF (aged 16-24) increased by 1,728 between 1997 and 2007. This is an increase of 3.5%.
- The number of 25-49 year olds in Belfast Metropolitan WDF decreased by 4,686 between 1997 and 2007. This is a decrease of 4.0%.
- The number of people aged 50-59/64 increased by 527 between 1997 and 2007. This is an increase of 1.2%.

### WORKFORCE EMPLOYMENT

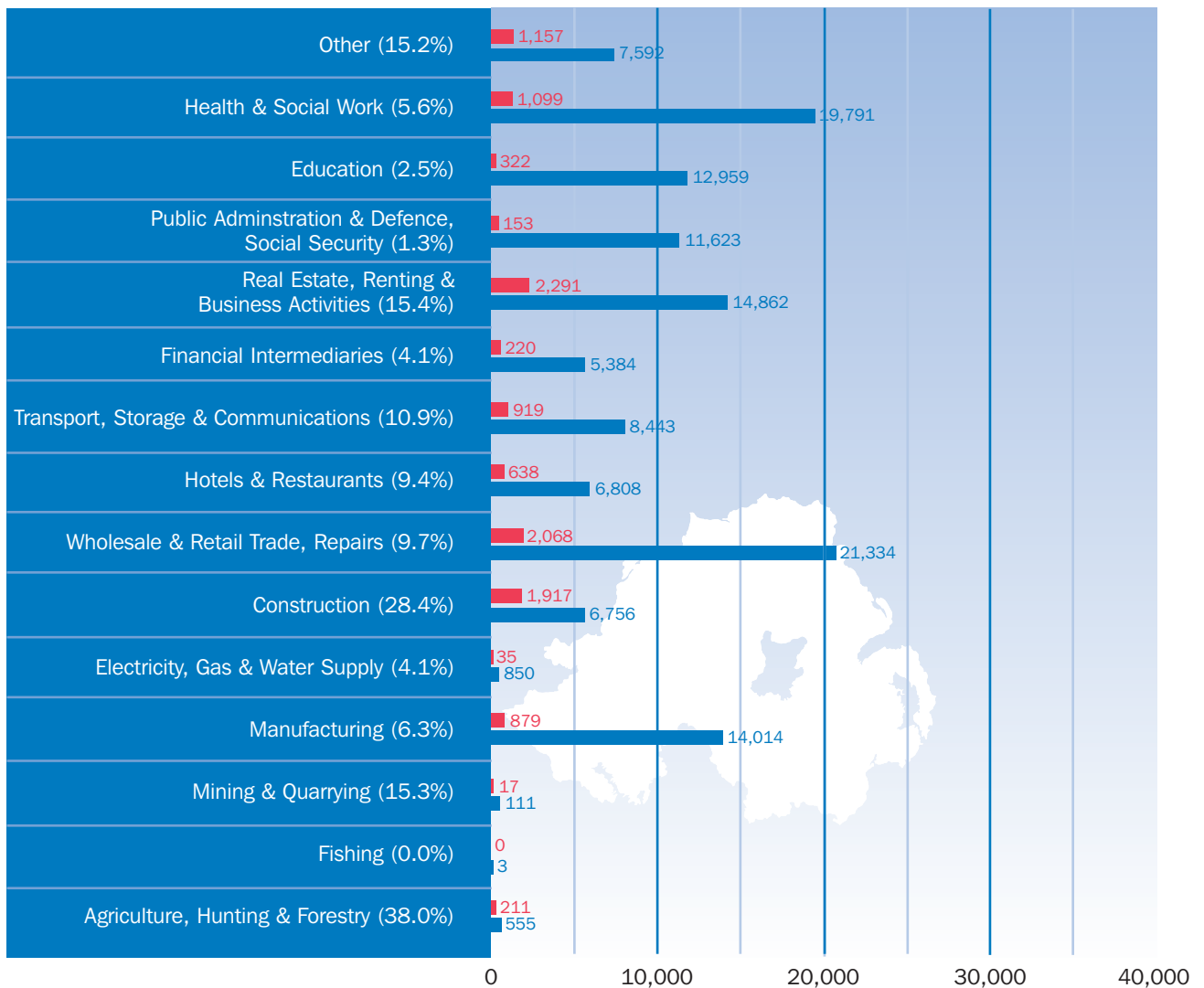
There were 217,639 employee jobs in Belfast Metropolitan WDF in 2005. This represented an increase of 2,636 (1.2%) since 2003.

- Females made up 52.3% of all employees in Belfast Metropolitan WDF in 2005. The number of female jobs increased by 1.5% between 2003 and 2005. Male employment in Belfast Metropolitan WDF increased by 0.9% in the same period.
- Over two thirds (71.0%) of jobs were full-time in 2005. Full-time jobs increased by 2.1% between 2003 and 2005, but part-time jobs decreased by 0.9%.

## SELF EMPLOYED INFORMATION

- In 2001, 38.0% of those persons aged between 16 and 74 in the Agriculture, hunting and forestry Industry in the Belfast Metropolitan WDF were self-employed (Figure 1).
- 28.4% of persons in the Construction Industry in the Belfast Metropolitan WDF were self-employed (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: All persons aged 16-74 in employment the week before the Census 2001 for the Belfast Metropolitan WDF**



■ SELF EMPLOYED

■ IN EMPLOYMENT

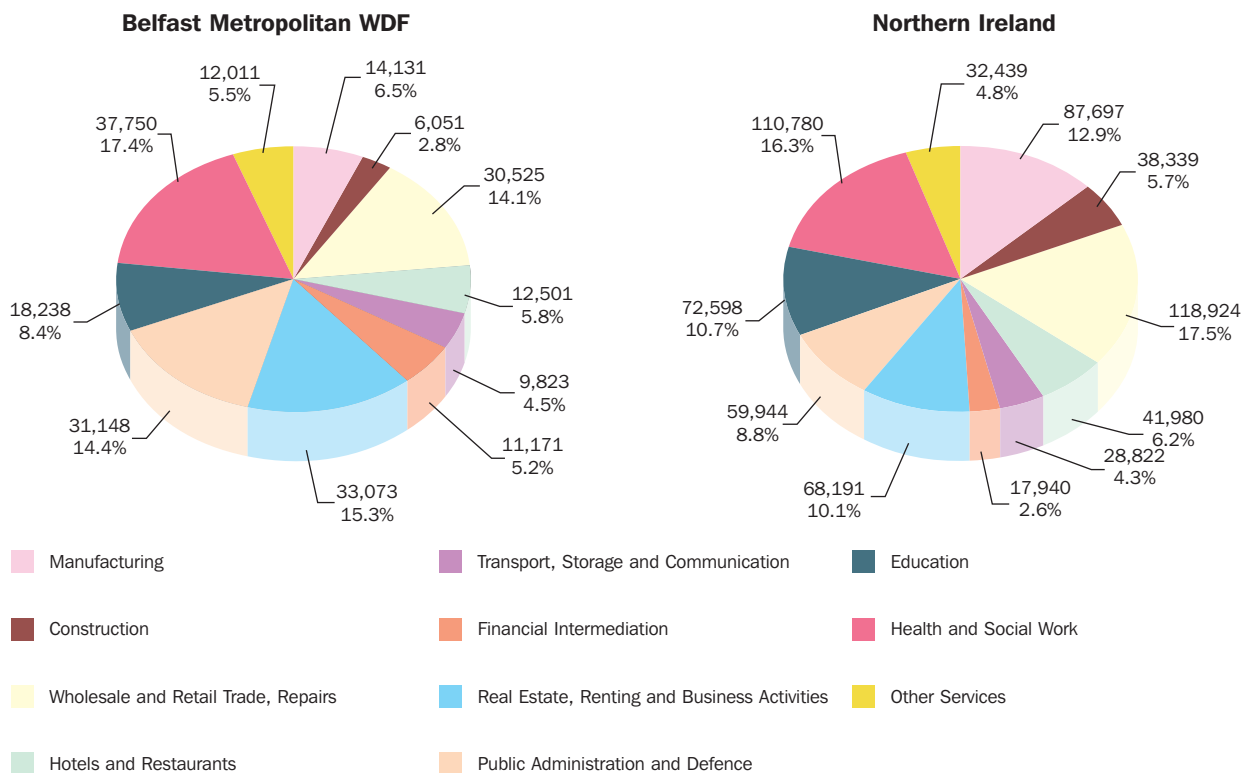
(%) = % Self Employed

Source: Census 2001

## INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE

- 17.4% of jobs (Figure 2) were in Health and Social Work Industries, 15.3% in Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities Industries, 14.4% in Public Administration and Defence Industries and 14.1% in Wholesale and Retail Trade Industries.
- The Construction Industries account for 6,051 jobs (Figure 2) in the Belfast Metropolitan WDF in 2005 (2.8%).

**Figure 2: Employee Jobs in 2005 by Section for Belfast Metropolitan WDF**



Source: Census of Employment 2005, DETI

- Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities Industries in the Belfast Metropolitan WDF have increased by 9.6% (2,904) between 2003 and 2005 (Table 3).
- Table 3 shows that the Financial Intermediation Industries have increased by 4.2% whilst Health and Social Work Industries have increased by 3.8% in this same period.
- Manufacturing Industries have decreased by 13.6% which equates to 2,230 jobs in the Belfast Metropolitan WDF between 2003 and 2005 (Table 3).
- Table 3 shows that the Construction Industries have decreased by 26 jobs which equates to a loss of 0.4% of jobs between 2003 and 2005.

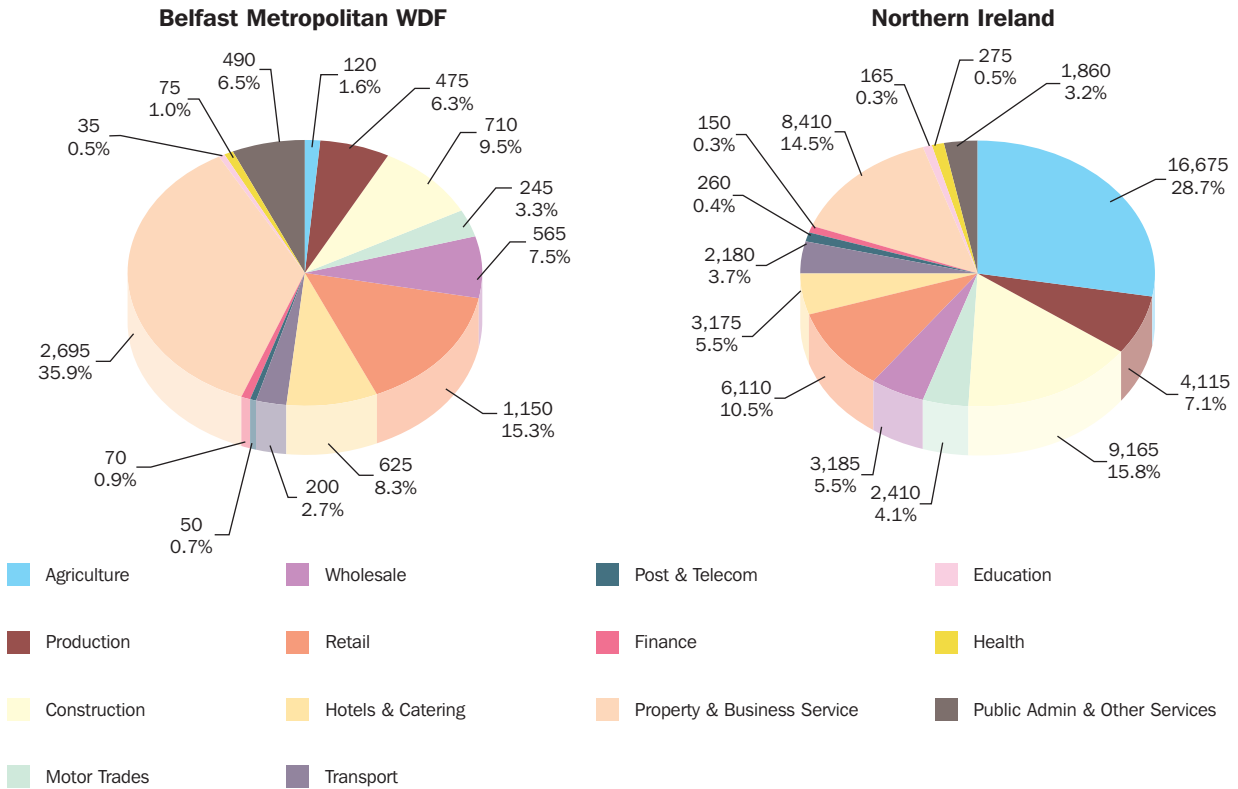
**Table 3: Change in Employee Jobs by Section for Belfast Metropolitan WDF September 2003 to September 2005**

	Absolute change in Belfast Metropolitan WDF	% Change in Belfast Metropolitan WDF	% Change in Northern Ireland
Manufacturing	-2,230	-13.6%	-4.6%
Construction	-26	-0.4%	+6.5%
Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repairs	+548	+1.8%	+5.9%
Hotels and Restaurants	+414	+3.4%	+3.4%
Transport, Storage and Communication	-366	-3.6%	+2.0%
Financial Intermediation	+453	+4.2%	+4.8%
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	+2,904	+9.6%	+17.7%
Public Administration and Defence	-897	-2.8%	-5.6%
Education	-29	-0.2%	+4.7%
Health and Social Work	+1,368	+3.8%	+5.1%
Other Services	+449	+3.9%	+4.4%

**Source: Census of Employment 2005, DETI**

# VAT REGISTERED ENTERPRISES

**Figure 3: Number of VAT registered businesses by Industry Group for Belfast Metropolitan WDF, 2007**



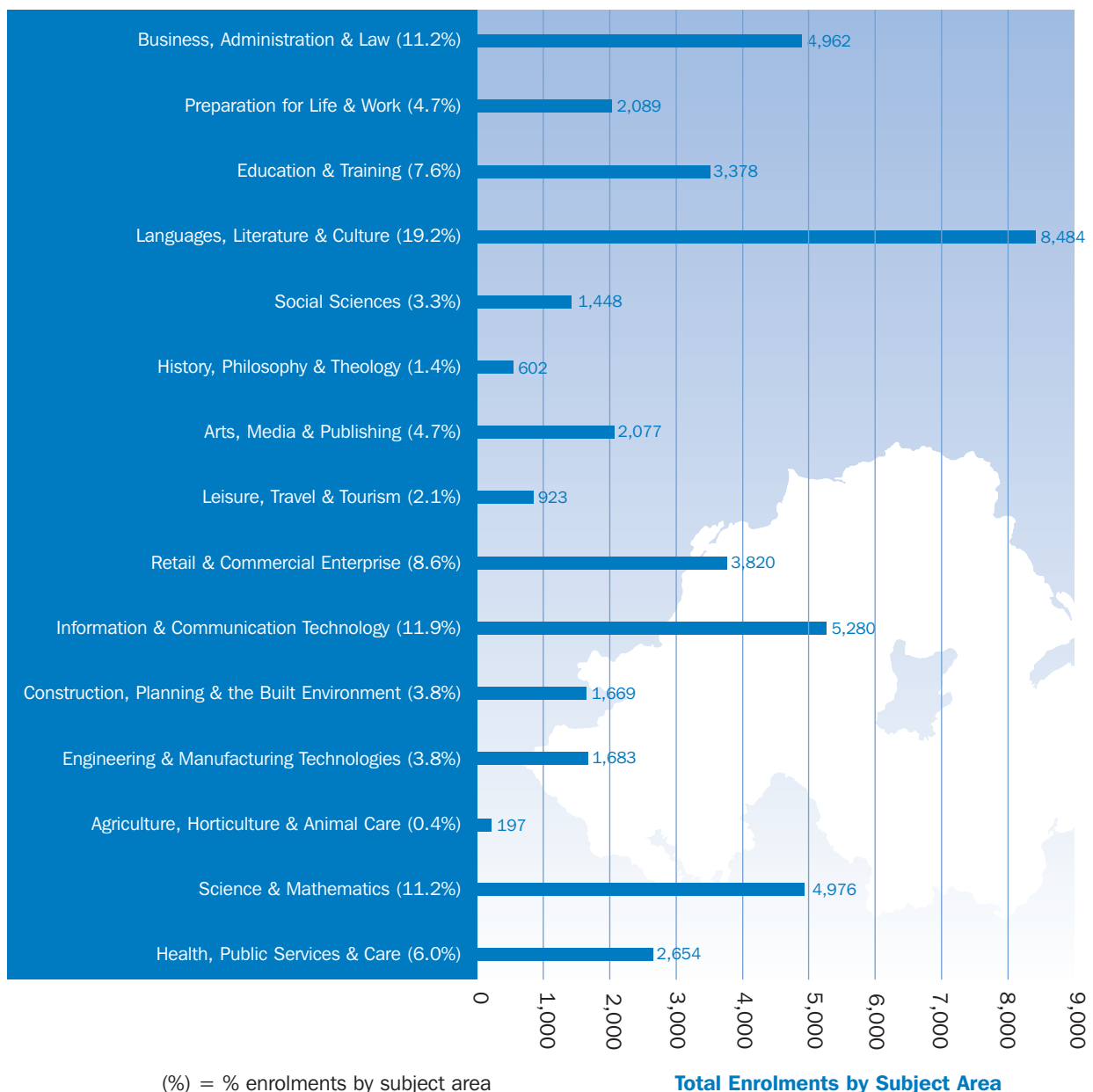
Source: Census of Employment 2005, DETI

- Figure 3 shows that in 2007 there were a total of 7,505 VAT registered businesses in the Belfast Metropolitan WDF. Of these just over a half were in the Property & Business Services Industry (35.9%) and Retail Industry (15.3%).
- The number of VAT registered businesses increased by 2.3% between 2006 and 2007 within the Belfast Metropolitan WDF. This was lower than for Northern Ireland as a whole (2.6%) (Figure 3).

## FURTHER EDUCATION INFORMATION

- Figure 4 shows that 19.2% of enrolments in 2006/07 were in Languages, Literature and Culture courses whilst 11.9% of enrolments were in Information & Communication Technology courses.
- Only 1.8% of enrolments were in the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care courses and History, Philosophy & Theology courses (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Enrolments in Belfast Metropolitan College by subject area 2006/07**





## QUALIFICATIONS

- 40.6% of the Belfast Metropolitan WDF working age population in 2001 had no qualifications. This compares to 41.6% of the Northern Ireland working age population who also had no qualifications (Table 4).
- Table 4 shows that 39.6% of the Belfast Metropolitan WDF working age population in 2001 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.
- 19.8% of the Belfast Metropolitan WDF working age population in 2001 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).

**Table 4: Qualification levels for working age population in Belfast Metropolitan WDF**

		All persons	No qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Belfast Metropolitan WDF	No	244,673	99,360	37,072	34,091	25,750	31,139	17,261
	%	100.0%	40.6%	15.2%	13.9%	10.5%	12.7%	7.1%
Northern Ireland	%	100.0%	41.6%	17.2%	16.4%	9.0%	10.9%	4.9%

**No Qualif:** 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

**Source: Census 2001**

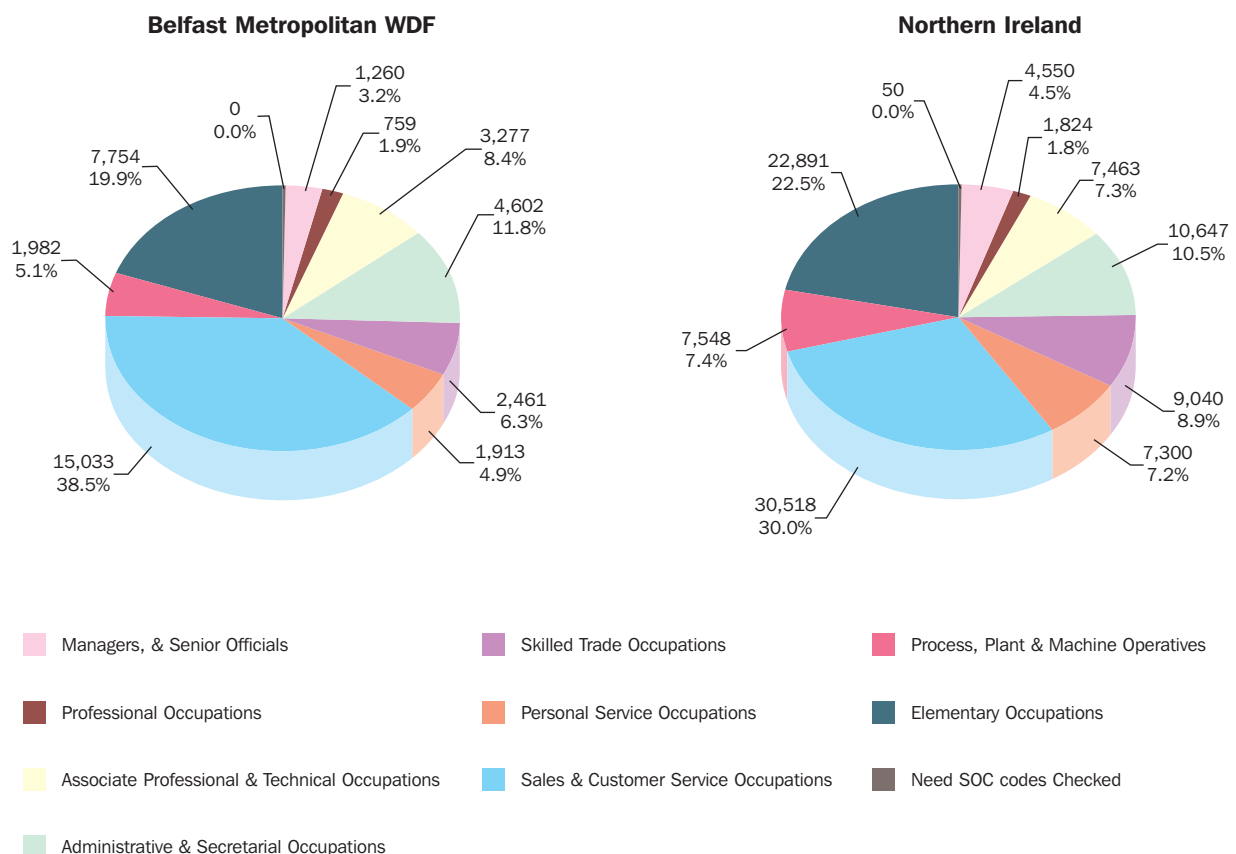
## MIGRANT WORKERS

There are migrants from a large number of countries living and working within the Belfast Metropolitan WDF. These migrants come from a variety of different countries - Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, India, France, Australia, Portugal, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Spain, South Africa, Philippines, Italy, Germany, Russia, China, Canada, Malaysia, Turkey, Romania, Pakistan, Ukraine, Albania and North America.

- Between April 2003 and October 2005 there were 7,933 NINO applicants from migrants in the Belfast Metropolitan WDF.
- The net external migration to the Belfast Metropolitan WDF between Mid 2004 and Mid 2005 was 573.
- In 2001 there were 2,973 individuals who recorded their country of birth as being from another EU country and 6,159 recorded their country of birth as being born elsewhere (not another EU country and not Northern Ireland). These two groups equate to 2.7% of the Belfast Metropolitan WDF.
- In Northern Ireland there were 14,395 Workers Registration Scheme Registrations (WRSR) between May 2004 and March 2006 and this equated to 8 per 1,000 resident population. In the Belfast Metropolitan WDF there were 2,865 WRSR and this equated to 19.9% of the Northern Ireland total.

## VACANCIES

Figure 5: Vacancy information for 2007 for Belfast Metropolitan WDF



Source: Client Management System, Department for Employment and Learning

- Figure 5 shows that over a third of all notified vacancies in 2007 in the Belfast Metropolitan WDF were in Sales and Customer Occupations (38.5%), whilst 19.9% were in Elementary Occupations.
- Of the remaining notified vacancies in 2007, 3.2% were Managers and Senior Officials, 1.9% Professional Occupations, 8.4% Associate Professional and Technical Occupations, 11.8% in Administrative and Secretarial Occupations, 6.3% in Skilled Trades Occupations, 4.9% in Personal Service Occupations, 5.1% in Process, Plant and Machine Operatives (Figure 5).

## REDUNDANCY INFORMATION

Table 5 shows that in Belfast Metropolitan WDF in 2007 there were 611 confirmed redundancies. This equates to 30.2% of the total number of redundancies in Northern Ireland in 2007.

**Table 5: Confirmed Redundancies between 2003 to 2007 for Belfast Metropolitan WDF**

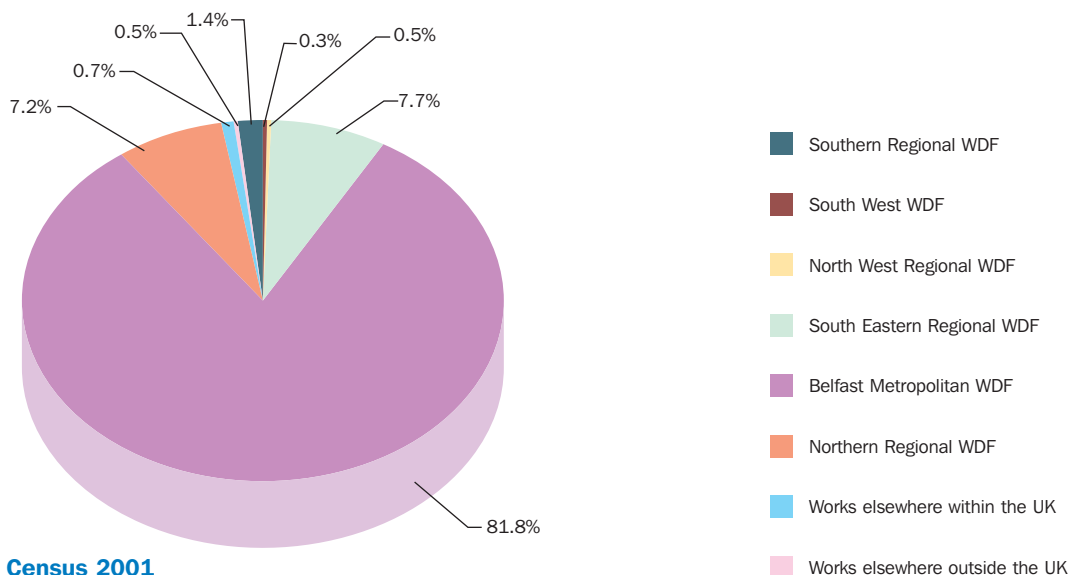
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Belfast Metropolitan WDF	1,186	1,075	771	977	611
Northern Ireland	5,576	3,023	2,517	3,155	2,022
% of Redundancies in Belfast Metropolitan WDF as a % of Northern Ireland total	21.3%	35.6%	30.6%	31.0%	30.2%

Source: Redundancies, DETI

## TRAVEL TO WORK INFORMATION

- Figure 6 shows that 98.9% of the persons living in Belfast Metropolitan WDF who were in employment in 2001 worked in Northern Ireland. 0.7% worked elsewhere within the UK and 0.5% worked elsewhere outside the UK, (0.3% in Republic of Ireland, 0.2% Other).
- 70.9% of persons living in Belfast Metropolitan WDF who were in employment in 2001 worked in Belfast, whilst the figure for Castlereagh was 10.9%.
- 81.8% of persons living in Belfast Metropolitan WDF work within this WDF, whilst 17.1% of persons living in Belfast Metropolitan WDF work in other WDF's, 0.7% worked elsewhere within the UK and 0.5% worked elsewhere outside the UK, (0.3% in Republic of Ireland, 0.2% Other) (Figure 6).

**Figure 6: Where people living in Belfast Metropolitan WDF go to work**



Source: Census 2001

## ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT DEMAND FOR OCCUPATIONS<sup>1</sup>

- Annual development demand for occupations includes both expansion demand (growth) and replacement demand caused by permanent retirements, leavers to another occupation, leavers to unemployment/inactivity and leavers to migration. The following table shows the anticipated development demand of the Belfast Metropolitan WDF to 2015. It should be noted that these figures represent best estimates and should be regarded as indicative only.
- Table 6 shows the key occupations that are expected to grow include sales occupations (1,850 jobs per year), elementary administration and service occupations (2,150 jobs per year) and administrative occupations (1,450 jobs per year). Occupations with lower levels of demand include protective service occupations, skilled agricultural trade occupations and customer service occupations.

**Table 6: Belfast Metropolitan WDF Annual Development Demand for Occupations to 2015\***

Occupations	Belfast Metropolitan WDF Annual Demand**	% Annual Demand in Belfast Metropolitan WDF**	% Annual Demand (Belfast Metropolitan WDF) as % of Northern Ireland Total
Corporate Managers	950	6.9%	19.8%
Managers and proprietors in Agriculture and Services	400	2.9%	18.2%
Science and Technology Professionals	400	2.9%	29.6%
Health Professionals	200	1.4%	40.0%
Teaching and Research Professionals	500	3.6%	21.3%
Business and Public Service Professionals	700	5.1%	28.6%
Science and Technology Associate Professionals	200	1.4%	22.2%
Health and Social Welfare Associate Professionals	350	2.5%	20.6%
Protective Service Occupations	0	0.0%	0.0%
Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	250	1.8%	31.3%
Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	700	5.1%	23.0%
Administrative Occupations	1,450	10.5%	21.6%
Secretarial and related occupations	600	4.3%	22.6%
Skilled Agriculture Trades	50	0.4%	4.5%
Skilled Metal and Electrical Trades	200	1.4%	14.8%
Skilled Construction and Building Trades	250	1.8%	10.2%
Textiles, Printing and other Skilled Trades	250	1.8%	15.6%
Caring Personal Service Occupations	950	6.9%	17.9%
Leisure and Personal Service Occupations	250	1.8%	17.2%
Sales Occupations	1,850	13.4%	21.9%
Customer Service Occupations	150	1.1%	33.3%
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	300	2.2%	11.5%
Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	350	2.5%	14.9%
Elementary Trades, Plant and Storage Related Occupations	300	2.2%	13.0%
Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	2,150	15.6%	25.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,800</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>20.4%</b>

\* Rounded to nearest 50

\*\* Numbers and percentages may not sum to total due to rounding

Source: Nick Rogers, Economic Development Policy Unit, North Down Borough Council, 2006

Note: It should be noted that these figures represent best estimates and should be regarded as indicative only as they may be affected by changing economic and labour market conditions.

1 Information on Annual Development Demand for Occupations has been supplied by Nick Rogers of the Economic Development Policy Unit of North Down Borough Council. We are very grateful to Nick for allowing us to reproduce his information.

## **USEFUL SOURCES OF LABOUR MARKET 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

[www.careersserviceni.com](http://www.careersserviceni.com)

## **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 1 hours paid work in the reference week (either employed or self-employed).
- Figures for employee jobs do not include those who are self-employed.



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