October 6th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 12th October 2026** at **6:00 pm** in **Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall, Warrenpoint.**

Committee Membership 2026-27

Councillor K Feehan **Chairperson**

Councillor S Murphy **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor G Kearns

Councillor D Lee-Surginor

Councillor N Lawlor

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor A Quinn

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor H Young

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairpersons Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Meeting held 14 September 2026

Attachment: ERT Action Sheet - Sep 2026 inc. historic actions.pdf ***Page 1***

For Discussion/Decision

4.0 BRCD Contracts for Innovation Challenge Fund

Attachment: ERT Report - BRCD Contracts for Innovation Challenge Fund.pdf ***Page 3***

Exempt Appendicies

4.1 Appendix - BRCD Contracts for Innovation Challenge Fund

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Attachment: Appx 1 - Contracts for Innovation Challenge Funding Business Case (restricted).pdf ***Not included***

For Discussion/Decision

5.0 Local Growth Funding

Attachment: ERT Report - Local Growth Fund DfC.pdf ***Page 7***

Exempt Appendicies

5.1 Appendix - Local Growth Funding

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Attachment: Appx 1 Local Growth Funding - Newry Greenway Towpath Enhancements_OBC (restricted).pdf ***Not included***

For Discussion/Decision

6.0 Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections Project

Attachment: ERT Report - Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections.pdf ***Page 10***

Exempt Appendicies

6.1 Appendix -Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections Project

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Attachment: Appx 1 - Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections Business Case(restricted).pdf ***Not included***

For Noting

7.0 Building Control 6 x Monthly Report

Attachment: ERT Report - Building Control 6 Monthly Update.pdf ***Page 13***

Attachment: Appx. Building Control Report - October 2026.pdf ***Page 15***

8.0 Licensing 6 x Monthly Report

Attachment: ERT Report - Licensing 6 Monthly Update.pdf ***Page 21***

Attachment: Appx. Licensing Report October 2026.pdf ***Page 23***

9.0 Newry BID Update

Attachment: ERT Report - Newry BID.pdf ***Page 33***

Attachment: Appx 1 - BID Q2 Update.pdf ***Page 35***

10.0 PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan

Attachment: ERT Report - PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan.pdf ***Page 60***

Exempt Appendicies

10.1 Appendix - PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of

any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Attachment: Appx 1 - PEACEPLUS minutes 24 09 2026.pdf ***Not included***

11.0 Regional Balance Bill Public Consultation

Attachment: ERT Report - Regional Balance Bill Consultation response.pdf ***Page 63***

11.1 Appendix - Regional Balance Bill Public Consultation

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Attachment: Appx 1 - Regional Balance Bill Consultation Response.pdf ***Not included***

12.0 Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) Outlook NMDDC

Attachment: ERT Report - Ulser University Economic Policy Centre NMDDC Economic Outlook.pdf ***Page 65***

Attachment: Appx 1 - UUEPC Economic Outlook NMDDC.pdf ***Page 68***

Attachment: Appx 2 - UUEPC July 2026 NI Outlook.pdf ***Page 113***

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Mr Caolain Boyd

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Ms Joanne Fleming

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Ms Aileen Jones

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Aurla King

Cllr Cathal King

Ms Elaine Kirk

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Niall Lawlor

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Jonathan McGilly

Mr Martin McKibbin

Ms Tracie McLoughlin

Sinead Murphy

Cllr Declan Murphy

Cllr Kate Murphy

Cllr Selina Murphy

Ms Patricia Murtagh

Cllr Siobhan O'Hare

Mr Andy Patterson

Cllr Áine Quinn

Cllr Henry Reilly

Cllr Michael Rice

Ms Alison Robb

Ms Maria Rogan

Cllr Michael Ruane

Mr Conor Sage

Mrs Amanda Smyth

Conor Smyth

Donna Starkey

Sarah Taggart

Cllr David Taylor

Mr David Telford

Ms Joanna Tierney

Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly

Ms Sinead Trainor

Cllr Jill Truesdale

Mrs Marie Ward

Cllr Helena Young

ACTION SHEET - ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/088/2026	Action Sheet of ERT Meeting held 10 August 2026	It was agreed to note the action sheet	C Mallon	Noted	Y
ERT/089/2026	Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections Project – Baseline Survey	It was agreed to approve the business case for Baseline Surveys for Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections Project as outlined in Appendix 1 of the officers' report.	A Smyth	In progress	Y
ERT/090/2026	Nighttime Economy	It was agreed to engage with Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group, Newry Regeneration Working Group, Newry BID and Chambers of Commerce within the district to develop recommendations for a nighttime economy action plan through the new Enterprise and Regeneration Strategy.	A Smyth	In progress	Y
ERT/091/2026	Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme	It was agreed to approve issuing of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the delivery Ring of Gullion Heritage Festival Landscape Partnership Legacy phase project as set out in section 2 of the officers' report.	A Smyth	In progress	Y

ERT/092/2026	Financial Assistance Call 1 2027/28	It was agreed to proceed with the delivery of call 1 financial assistance for 27/28 revenue projects, in line with the timeframe and themes outlined within the officer's report.	A Smyth	In progress	Y
ERT/093/2026	Bathing Waters Consultation	It was agreed to note the consultation response submitted by the deadline of 21 August 2026.	A Smyth	Noted	Y
ERT/094/2026	Harbours Bill	It was agreed to note the consultation response.	A Smyth	Noted	Y
ERT/095/2026	NMD Museums Quarterly Update	It was agreed to note the update on the activities, programming and achievements of NMD Museums.	A Smyth	Noted	Y

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 12th October 2026
Subject:	BRCD Contracts for Innovation Challenge Fund
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Amanda Smyth - Assistant Director Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Michael Forster – Digital Innovation Manager

Purpose of Report:

For Decision

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Purpose To approve the recommendations in 3.1 of this report. Background To update on a funding application made to Belfast Region City Deal Innovation Pillar: "Contracts for Innovation (CfI) Programme", which if approved, will enable Council to deliver the first innovation challenge available under this funding programme.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Contracts for Innovation (CfI) Programme • The Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Contracts for Innovation (CfI) Programme is a new £4.3 million regional initiative led by Belfast City Council on behalf of the six Belfast Region City Deal partner councils. The programme enables councils to identify significant public service challenges and work collaboratively with businesses and innovators to develop and test novel solutions through a challenge-led procurement model. • The programme adopts a "first customer" approach whereby local authorities present real-world operational challenges to the market and provide small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with the opportunity to research, develop, test and demonstrate innovative solutions within a live public-sector environment. This approach reduces the risks associated with innovation, stimulates research and development activity, and enables councils to explore emerging technologies before making longer-term investment decisions. • The programme directly supports the BRCD Innovation Programme and aligns with the Department for the Economy's Economic Vision by encouraging innovation, increasing research and development activity, supporting SME growth, and creating opportunities for the commercialisation of new products and services.
2.2	Proposed innovation challenge • Following engagement through an internal and external working group, officers have developed the first proposed innovation challenge under the Contracts for Innovation Programme:

- "*How can local authorities anticipate and manage visitor demand and movement across key destinations, while understanding the factors driving these changes, so they can proactively mitigate potential impacts before they become a problem*?"

- Using Castlewellan Forest Park as the initial test environment, the challenge will explore how multiple data sources, digital technologies and predictive analytics may be combined to provide local authorities with real-time and forward-looking intelligence on visitor behaviour, movement patterns and site pressures. The objective is to support a transition from reactive destination management towards a more initiative-taking, evidence-led and predictive approach to decision making.

- Successful solutions may enable councils to better anticipate visitor demand, improve operational planning and communications, deploy resources more effectively, reduce environmental pressures and support long-term investment decisions. The challenge also seeks to create opportunities for SMEs to develop innovative solutions with wider commercial potential.

- While Castlewellan Forest Park will function as the demonstration site, the challenge has been intentionally designed to address common issues experienced across a range of council-owned assets and visitor destinations. Should a successful solution be developed, it may be replicated across other facilities within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and adopted by other Belfast Region City Deal councils facing similar visitor management challenges.

- The proposed challenge seeks to develop transferable learning and innovation that can be deployed across the Belfast Region City Deal area, generating long-term operational, environmental and economic benefits.

- Council officers will progress the delivery of the Contracts for Innovation Challenge, working in partnership with Belfast City Council, the Strategic Investment Board (SIB), and relevant legal and procurement advisers, and will undertake all necessary procurement, governance and programme management activities required to launch, administer and implement the challenge competition in accordance with Council and Belfast Region City Deal governance arrangements.

<u>Economic Development and Innovation Benefits</u>

- The Contracts for Innovation Programme represents a significant economic development opportunity by creating a phased grant funded research and development opportunities for SMEs and innovators. The programme is expected to:
    - Support the development and commercialisation of innovative products and services by stimulating research and development investment across the Belfast Region.
    - Enable SMEs to develop and demonstrate solutions within a live public-sector environment.
    - Support the growth of high-value digital and technology businesses.
    - Create opportunities for highly skilled employment and innovation-led economic growth.

	○ Position local authorities as early adopters of emerging technologies and innovative approaches to public service delivery.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	1. To note the contents of this report. 2. To approve, subject to securing the necessary approvals from Belfast Region City Deal implementation of the Contracts for Innovation challenge, including: a. progressing all relevant legal agreements and procurement activities including use of the Competitive Flexible Procurement Procedure required to deliver the Innovation Challenge Fund; b. to award contracts to eligible/successful SMEs within the approved funding budget
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	As per the attached business case. If successful, the programme will be 100% funded.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale: N/A

6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	These items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph **3** of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - **Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)** and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of Business. Appendices 1) Business Case – Contracts for Innovation
7.1	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	1) CFI ERT Challenge Overview – available upon request

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 12th October 2026
Subject:	Local Growth Funding – Department for Communities
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism.
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Aveen McVeigh Head of Regeneration and Business Development

Purpose of Report:

For Decision

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Purpose To approve the recommendations in 3.1 of this report. Background The Local Growth Fund (LGF) was announced by the UK Government as part of the 2025 Spending Review and commenced on 1 April 2026. To progress with implementation the NIO developed an Investment Plan. The NIO launched a seven-week public consultation on the LGF, which concluded on 26 June 2026. The outcomes informed an update to the LGF Investment Plan. The Executive agreed LGF Capital allocations for 2026/27 in August 2026 to the Department for the Economy (DfE), Department for Communities (DfC), Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and Department for Infrastructure (DfI).
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Under the Local Growth Fund DfC have recently secured capital funding for projects ready to proceed, and with the ability to be fully completed by 31st March 2027, with all expenditure committed by this same date. Applications for funding have been submitted to DfC for the following 4 projects: • Commercial Property grant (main urban centres) – supplementing budget allowance for the LEP programme that closed in Sept 2026 • Revive and Reimagine Property Façade grant for Downpatrick town centre: • Enhanced works Downpatrick (lighting at grove & landscaping). • Enhanced works to Newry Greenway and tow path It is anticipated that an award of funding will be issued in November 2026, for implementation of project by 31st March 2027. Due to the short timeframe for delivery and subsequent risk of being able implement projects in full, advanced approval is requested for business cases and procurement.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended to: • Note the submission of applications to DfC.

	• Approve, subject to Letter of Offer, implementation of the projects outlined in section 2.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	50% private match funding is required for Revive and Reimagine Commercial Property Grant and Property Façade. 10% Council contribution is required for the below projects • Enhanced works to Newry Greenway and tow path: 10% match budget within current budgets 26/27 • Enhanced works Downpatrick: 10% match budget within current budgets 26/27
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	Appendices

7.1	Business case 1. Enhanced works to Newry Greenway and tow path
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 12th October 2026
Subject:	Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections Project
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director – Economy, Growth & Tourism
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Darren Rice, AONB and Geopark Manager and Aveen McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development

Purpose of Report:

For Decision

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Purpose To approve the recommendations in 3.1 of this report. Background Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections project has received grant notification and Permission to Start from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and a Letter of Offer from DAERA for the funding to deliver the development phase of Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections Project. The Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections Project is a partnership between the National Trust (lead partner), Newry Mourne and Down District Council, Mourne Heritage Trust and NI Water. Covering 73,294 hectares, the area faces increasing challenges from wildfires, pollution and changing land-use pressures.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections project received Permission to Start from The National Lottery Heritage Fund on 15th July 2026. The project has secured £1.1 million of development funding and has the potential to attract a further £8.7 million for delivery. Working with farmers, landowners and local communities, the project will restore habitats, strengthen environmental resilience and reconnect people with the area's rich natural and cultural heritage. Council has been allocated part of the development phase budget and is responsible for procuring external services on behalf of the project partnership in accordance with Council procurement policies and procedures. Council are the lead on the following assessments which will guide nature recovery and the measurement of outcomes across the Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections Project: • Review and update the Landscape Character Assessments for the eight areas within the project area • Development of Nature Recovery Plans for the river catchment areas within the Mourne and Ring of Gullion AONBs

	• Develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan that establishes the framework, methodologies, indicators and reporting mechanisms required to measure the outcomes and impacts of the project. These assessments are a critical part of the development phase of the Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections project to inform future elements of the project. Business case approved is not requested, with the business case attached at appendix 1.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	1) It is recommended to approve the business case for the Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections Project
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	The assessments and plans are 100% funded through The National Lottery Heritage Fund and DAERA Environment Fund.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service.

	No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	Appendices
7.1	These items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph **3** of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - **Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)** and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of Business. Appendix 1 – Business case: Mourne Gullion Landscape Connections Project
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 12 October 2026
Subject:	Building Control 6 x Monthly Update Report
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Regeneration
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Edwin Newell, Head of Building Control and Licensing

Purpose of Report:

For Noting

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Provide the members with a 6 monthly update on the Building Control Service. Building Control: 1. Enforce Building Regulations, Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations and Dangerous Structures Legislation within the Council District. 2. Carry out Fire Risk Assessments on all Council buildings.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	N/A
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the content of the report.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.

5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale: N/A
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Building Control 6 Monthly Report – 01 March 2026 to 31 August 2026
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	N/A

6 Monthly Report for ERT Committee Meeting

1.0 Building Regulations Report – Matters for Noting

1.1 Number of Building Regulation Applications Received

01 Mar 2026 – 31 Aug 2026	01 Mar 2025 – 31 Aug 2025
1771	1133

1.2 Fees Received

01 Mar 2026 – 31 Aug 2026		01 Mar 2025 – 31 Aug 2025	
Plan Fee	£186,851.99	Plan Fee	£108,370.84
Inspection Fee	£227,288.36	Inspection Fee	£342,515.06
Other Fee	£1,684.80	Other Fee	£1,118.10
Total	£415,825.15	Total	£452,004.00

1.3 Site Inspections carried out

01 Mar 2026 – 31 Aug 2026	01 Mar 2025 – 31 Aug 2025
4888	4389

1.4 Performance

Current performance indicators:-

Domestic Plan Assessments assessed within 21 days	(Target 80%)	82%
Non Domestic Plan Assessments assessed within 35 days	(Target 80%)	80%
BR3 Returns assessed within 14 days	(Target 85%)	95%

2.0 Enforcement

Number of premises visited to assess extent of unauthorised works between March 2026 and August 2026 = 8

11b Burrenreagh Road, Castlewellan	2no. industrial buildings housing several small business units	Resolved
84 Kinghill Avenue, Newcastle	Metal storage shed	Resolved
4 Damolly Village, Newry	Extension to dwelling	Reminder letter sent
45 Islandmoyle Road, Cabra	2 detached buildings for holiday let	Resolved
1st floor, 10c Donard Street, Newcastle	Internal alterations for form gym / fitness suite	Resolved
207 Concession Road, Crossmaglen	Front, side and rear extension shop to form staff toilets and chillers	Resolved
40 Carrickree, Warrenpoint	Construction of garden room	Resolved
36 Castle Street, Killough	Construction of new roof	Resolved

3.0 Dangerous Structures

Number of premises identified as dangerous structures between March 2026 and August 2026 = 6

11 Ballinasack Road, Mullaghbawn	Collapsed retaining wall	Resolved
119-121 Main Street, Dundrum	Loose roof slates	Resolved
25 Stream Street, Downpatrick	Loose roof slates	Resolved
56 St Patrick's Avenue, Downpatrick	Fire damage to part of building	Ongoing
14 Church Road, Newry	Collapse of wall onto road	Ongoing
18 Crossgar Road, Ballynahinch	Broken dwarf wall consisting of loose brick	Resolved

4.0 Property Certificates

Property certificates responded to date.

01 Mar 2026 – 31 Aug 2026
1406

01 Mar 2025 – 31 Aug 2025
1450

5.0 Fire Risk Assessments

Number of Fire Risk Assessments carried out during the past 6 months = 10.

- Bagenal's Castle
- Forkhill Community Centre
- Glen Cottage, Kilbroney Park
- Newry Town Hall
- Bessbrook Community Centre
- McGrath Centre
- Down Arts Centre
- Down County Museum
- Killyleagh Bridge Centre
- Dan Rice Hall

6.0 Energy Performance of Buildings (EPB) Checks and LPS Vacant Rating

01 March 2026 – 31 August 2026

ESTATE AGENTS

- Total no of agents checked (on site/ website) - 48
- Total number of properties not compliant – 3
- Number of first warning letters issued – 1
- Number of successful first warning letters – 1

DISPLAY ENERGY CERTIFICATES (DEC's)

- Number of buildings checked on Landmark - 216
- Number of buildings compliant on Landmark -181
- Number of first warning letters issued - 35
- Number of successful first warning letters - 1

AIR CONDITIONING

- Number of air con buildings checked on landmark – 111
- Number of air con buildings compliant – 97
- Number of first warning letters issued - 16
- Number of successful first warning letters – 2

EPCs RECEIVED (ON CONSTRUCTION)

- Number of new dwelling EPCs checked on Landmark – 194
- Number of new dwellings complaint – 194
- Number of dwellings now compliant after Letter 1 -

LPS VACANT RATING

- Currently suspended by Land and Property Services

Recommendation:
For Noting

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 12th October 2026
Subject:	Licensing 6 Monthly Report
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Regeneration
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Paula Hughes, Senior Licensing Officer

Purpose of Report:

For Noting

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Purpose To note the contents contained within the Licensing 6 monthly report. Background The Licensing Section is responsible for administering the Entertainment, Cinema, Petroleum, Amusement, Marriage, Street Trading, Lotteries, Road Closures, Pavement Café and Shops Sunday Trading, Postal Numbering, Street/Road naming and Street Nameplate functions.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	N/a
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the contents contained within the Licensing 6 monthly report.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	N/a
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No

	If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Licensing 6 Monthly Report – 1st March 2026 to 31st August 2026
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	N/a

Licensing Report: Matters for Noting

1 March 2026 – 31 August 2026

1.0	**Application Information**	
1.1	Number of Licensing Applications Received and Validated (Entertainment, Cinema, Petroleum, Amusement, Marriage, Street Trading, Lotteries, Road Closures, Pavement Café and Shops Sunday Trading)	**232**
1.2	Number of Licences Granted (Entertainment, Cinema, Petroleum, Amusement, Marriage, Street Trading, Lotteries, Road Closures, Pavement Café and Shops Sunday Trading)	**220**
1.3	Number of Annual Inspections Carried out (Amusement, Cinema, Entertainment, Marriage, Petroleum and During Performance Inspections)	**268**

2.0 List of Entertainment Licences Issued

Name of Premises (Entertainment)	**Address**	**Town**	**Postcode**
The Tipsy Cow	22 Main Street	Hilltown	BT34 5UH
Maggies Wine Bar	66 Downpatrick Street	Crossgar	BT30 9EA
Bright Castle Golf Club	14 Coniamstown Road	Downpatrick	BT30 8LU
Circus Vegas	Craigmore Road	Newry	BT35 6JR
Forge Bar	100 Carrickasticken Road	Forkhill	BT35 9RL
Boley Inn	19 Main Street	Hilltown	BT34 5UH
Three Ways Community Centre	Well Lane	Newry	BT34 1HE
Peadar O'Doirnin GAA Club	4 Bog Road	Forkhill	BT35 9SZ
Kilbroney Bar	31-33 Church Street	Rostrevor	BT34 3BA
Thierafurth Inn	83 Dublin Road	Kilcoo	BT34 5HT
The Dundrum Inn	143-145 Main Street	Dundrum	BT33 0LX
The Arkle Bar	17 Irish Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6BW
Kingdom Youth Club	10 Dunnaval Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4JT
Killeavy Castle Estate	12 Ballintemple Road	Killeavy	BT35 8LQ
The Three Steps	75 Finnegans Road	Dromintee	BT35 8TA
St Patricks Gaelic Social Club	4B Old Road	Mayobridge	BT34 2HE
Montalto House	Montalto Estate, Dromore Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8AY
Newry City AFC Social Club	Greenbank Industrial Estate	Newry	BT34 2QU
The Oaks Bar	5 Darragh Cross	Saintfield	BT24 7EQ
Castleward Estate- Mansion House	Park Road	Strangford	BT30 7LS
Castleward Estate – Outdoors	Park Road	Strangford	BT30 7LS
Minerstown Tavern	68 Minerstown Road	Downpatrick	BT30 8SU
The Cuan	6-12 The Square	Strangford	BT30 7ND
Ye Old Ship Inn	12-14 The Square	Warrenpoint	BT34 3JT
Shane O'Neills GFC	11 Newry Road	Camlough	BT35 7JP

The White Horse Inn	49-55 Main Street	Saintfield	BT24 7AB
Anchor Bar	49 Castle Street	Killough	BT30 7QQ
The Barn Bar and Country Kitchen	37A Mearne Road	Downpatrick	BT30 6SY
Saval GFC Sports & Leisure Complex	20 Coalpit Road	Newry	BT34 2RQ
Owenbeg Bowling and Sports Club	77 Stream Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6DE
The Carman's Inn	15 Downpatrick Street	Crossgar	BT30 9EA
The Saint Patrick Centre	53A Lower Market Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6LZ
The Corner Inn	29 Killyleagh Street	Crossgar	BT30 9DQ
Annalong Presbyterian Church Hall	7 Majors Hill	Annalong	BT34 4QP
St Colmans GAC Drumaness	91 Old Park Road	Ballynahinch	BT34 8SE
Drumaness Mills Football Club	156A Drumaness Road	Drumaness	BT24 8RL
Spa Golf Club	20 Grove Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8PN
Carlingford Lough Yacht Club	Killowen Point	Rostrevor	BT34 3AN
AOH Hall Glassdrumman	298 Glassdrumman Road	Annalong	BT34 4QN
Kent Amusements	79 Central Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0HH
St Patricks Golf Club	43 Saul Road	Downpatrick	BT30 6PA
St Peters GAA	17-19 Mary Street	Warrenpoint	BT34 3NT
Annsborough GAC Social Club	42 Ballylough Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9NN
Longstone Community Hall	65 Longstone Road	Annalong	BT34 4UY
Liatroim Fontenoys GAC	11 Backaderry Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9SL
Kilmorey Arms Hotel	41-43 Greencastle Street	Kilkeel	BT34 4BH
The Lodge Building & Cultural & Business Centre	1 Dublin Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9AG
St John Bosco GFC Social Club	10 Upper Water Street	Newry	BT34 1DJ
The Old Commercial Bar & Lounge	2 Kildare Street	Ardglass	BT30 7TR
Coney Island Caravan Club (Finbars)	75 Killough Road	Ardglass	BT30 7UH
Denvirs	12-14 English Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6AB
Finnis Orange Hall	165 Rathfriland Road	Dromore	BT25 2EG
St Mochais GAC Darragh Cross	119 Manse Road	Crossgar	BT30 9LZ
Catholic Working Mens Club	36A Hill Street	Newry	BT34 1AR
Patrician Youth Centre	John Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6HS
Mirabelle Bar	28 Market Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6LY
Rowallane Community Hub	35 Main Street	Saintfield	BT24 7AB
Mulhollands Bar	18-20 Main Street	Castlewellan	BT31 9DG
Rocky Mountain Cottage	59 Sandbank Road	Hilltown	BT34 5XX
Currans Bar and Seafood Steakhouse	83 Strangford Road	Ardglass	BT30 7SP
McSwiggans Bar	59 North Street	Newry	BT34 1DD
Russell Gaelic Union	100 Old Course Road	Downpatrick	BT30 8BW
Circus Vegas	156 Dundrum Road	Newcastle	BT33 0LN
St Joseph's Independent Club	32 Kilmorey Street	Newry	BT34 2DE
Killeavy Gac	49 Forkhill Road	Newry	BT35 8QX
The Q Club	2 Basin Quay	Newry	BT35 6HU
Killyleagh Yacht Club	22A Cuan Beach	Killyleagh	BT30 9QU
Clonduff GAA Club	18 Castlewellan Road	Hilltown	BT34 5UY
St Patricks GFC Dromintee	18 Aghadavoyle Road	Jonesborough	BT35 8JJ
Mac's Bar	48 Main Street	Hilltown	BT34 5UJ
McGuigan's Bar	48 Monaghan Street	Newry	BT35 6AA
Quinns Bar	62-64 Main Street	Newcastle	BT33 0AE
Ballyholland Harps GAC	Bettyshill Road	Newry	BT34 2LY
Number 7	7 Duke Street	Warrenpoint	BT34 3JY

Orchard Bar	114 Rathfriland Road	Newry	BT34 1PH
Mourne Stimulus Day Centre	1 Council Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4NP
Dan Rice Memorial Hall	Drumaness Road	Drumaness	BT24 8RL
The Primrose	30 Main Street	Ballynahinch	BT24 8DN
Traynors Bar and Restaurant	94 Market Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6LZ
Newry Masonic Social Club	Downshire Road	Newry	BT34 1DX
Mackens Bar	71-73 South Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0EYY
Victoria Hotel	1 Dock Street	Warrenpoint	BT34 3LZ
INF Glen Club	37 Bridge Street	Rostrevor	BT34 3BG
Corner House Bar	1 Bridge Street	Rostrevor	BT34 3BG
Laverty's Bar	2C Bavan Road	Rostrevor	BT24 2EP
Slieve Gullion Forest Park	89 Drumintee Road	Meigh	BT35 8SW
Ballyholland Harps GAC	Bettyshill Road	Newry	BT34 2LY
McGuigans Bar	48 Monaghan Street	Newry	BT35 6AA
The Avenue Bar	18 St Patrick's Avenue	Downpatrick	BT30 6DW
Hillyard House	1-5 Castle Street	Castlewellan	BT31 9DX
Newry and Mourne Musuem	Bagenals Castle, Castle Street	Newry	BT34 2BY
Murphy's Bar & Restaurant	78 Market Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6LZ
Kings Bar	136 Rathfriland Road	Dromara	BT25 2EE
Down Arts Centre	2-6 Irish Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6BP
The Old Court Wedding Barn	60A Old Court	Stranford	BT30 7NG
Downpatrick Co-Operative Marketing Ltd	24 Bonecastle Road	Downpatrick	BT30 8HB
Inverbrena Community Centre	Stella Maris Street	Strangford	BT30 7NG
Percy French	Downs Road	Newcastle	BT33 0AH

3.0 List of Petroleum Licences Issued

Name of Premises (Petroleum)	**Address**	**Town**	**Postcode**
S McConnell & Sons Ltd	184 Carrigenagh Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4QA
Mulkerns Eurospar	51A Forkhill Road	Newry	BT35 8QY
Ardmore PSNI Station	3 Belfast Road	Newry	BT34 1EF
Gregory's Service Station	109 Camlough Road	Bessbrook	BT35 7EE
Rafferty's Garage	42 Newry Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4DT
Greenbank Service Station	7 Warrenpoint Road	Newry	BT34 2PF
Murphys Brothers	103 Carrickasticken Road	Forkhill	BT35 9RL
Grant Stores	2 Bog Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4SY
Central Filling Station	6 Main Street	Camlough	BT35 7JG
Mac Fuels	56 Forkhill Road	Newry	BT35 8QX
Casey's Filling Station	60 Concession Road	Crossmaglen	BT35 9AB
Pointside Service Station	11 Old Warrenpoint Road	Newry	BT34 2PF
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Haughey House, Greenbank Industrial Estate	Newry	BT34 2QU
Fiveways Shop and Service Station	99-101 Armagh Road	Newry	BT35 6PW
Morgan Xpress Archview Garage	26 Camlough Road	Newry	BT35 6JP
Coole Oils Ltd	71 New Road	Silverbridge	BT35 9LR
Casey's Supermarket Ltd	8 Newry Road	Crossmaglen	BT35 9LR

Eurospar Ardglass	5 Downpatrick Road	Ardglass	BT30 7SF
Morrisons Vivoxtra	69-77 Belfast Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8EB
Central Garages Crossgar Ltd	21 Killyleagh Street	Crossgar	BT30 9DQ
Saintfield Service Station	11 Crossgar Road	Saintfield	BT7AS
Fresh Food Centre	7-9 Dublin Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9AQ
Meadowside Filling Station	27 Church Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6EH
Dublin Road Mini Mart	112 Dublin Road	Kilcoo	BT34 5HP
Donard View Service Station	76 Crossgar Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8XS
Eurospar Clough	2-4 Main Street	Clough	BT30 8RA
Henry J McVeigh	33 Clanvaraghan Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9JX
Eurospar	55 Greencastle Street	Kilkeel	BT34 4BH
Nicholl Auto 365 Downpatrick	Killough Road	Downpatrick	BT30 6PY
Finch's Millvale	17 Millvale Road	Bessbrook	BT35 7NH
Cloughoge Service Station Ltd	10 Forkhill Road	Newry	BT35 8LZ
O'Hares Drumaness Ltd	121 Drumaness Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8RL
Royal Country Down Golf Club	36 Golf Links Road	Newcastle	BT33 0AN
Eurospar Newcastle Road	74-78 Newcastle Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4NJ
Eurospar Downpatrick	6 Ardglass Road	Downpatrick	BT30 6JQ
Hearty Fuels	2 Drumill Road	Silverbridge	BT35 9LA
Border Jacks Ltd	124 Concession Road	Crossmaglen	BT35 9JE
College Filling Station	112 Market Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6LZ
Ghan Filling Station	43 Warrenpoint Road	Rostrevor	BT34 3EB
Rockmount Service Station	32 Rathfriland Road	Newry	BT34 1JZ
Ardmore PSNI Station	2 Belfast Road	Newry	BT34 1EF
Spar Killyleagh	4 Downpatrick Street	Killyleagh	BT30 5HP
Brennans	149 Newcastle Road	Seaforde	BT30 8PL
Dublin Road Mini Mart	112 Dublin Road	Kilcoo	BT34 5HP
Border Jacks Ltd	124 Concession Road	Crossmaglen	BT35 9JE
D &W Carlisle Ltd	105 Belfast Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8FF

4.0 List of Amusement Permits Issued

Name of Premises (Amusement)	**Address**	**Town**	**Postcode**
Casino Palace	8 Water Street	Newry	BT34 1DJ
Vegas Casino	4 Corn Market	Newry	BT35 8BG
The Casino	51 Monaghan Street	Newry	BT35 6AY
Arcadia Amusements	37-39 Central Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0AA
Joyland Amusements	1-11 Central Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0AA
Max Sports Gaming Centre	4 Margaret Square	Newry	BT34 1DE
The Q Club	2 Basin Quay	Newry	BT35 6HU

5.0 Street Nameplates

Nameplates Requests Received	71
Nameplates Ordered	67

6.0 List of Single Language Nameplates ordered from 1 March 2026 – 31 August 2026

Street Name	
2 -16 (evens) Shandon Park, Newry	
Beechwood Villas, Newry	
Mountain Road, Newry	
Craigy Road, Saintfield	
Goragh Road, Newry	
Aghincurk Lane, Newtownhamilton	
Woodgrange Road, Seaforde	
8-21 Watsons Drive, Newry	
1-7 Watsons Drive, Newry	
1-12 St. Moninna Park, Meigh	
13-42 St. Moninna Park, Meigh	
Leading to 43-88 St. Moninna Park, Meigh	
The Forge Leading To 5, 5a and 5b Bridge Street, Kilkeel	
Grahamville Estate, Kilkeel	
Leading to Lawnfield Grove, Newcastle	
Lighthouse Road, Castlewellan	
Abbeyview Road, Crossgar	
Letalian Road, Kilcoo	
Kerry Row, Downpatrick	
Larchfield Park, Newcastle	
Tullykin Road, Killeagh	
Dolmen Park, Leitrim	
Bryansford Road, Newcastle	
Rostrevor Road, Hilltown	
Bramblewood, Bessbrook	
No. 35- 73 (odds), Knockdarragh, Newry	
No. 5-33 (odds), Knockdarragh, Newry	
No. 44 - 96 (evens), Knockdarragh, Newry	
No. 75 - 99 (odds) And No 98 - 132 (evens), Knockdarragh, Newry	
Leading To 18 - 42 (evens), Knockdarragh, Newry	
No. 6 - 16 (evens), Knockdarragh, Newry	

7.0	**Requests for Dual Language Nameplates**
7.1	**Foxfield Road, Crossmaglen** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 34 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.2	**Meadow View, Downpatrick**

	It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 27 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.3	**Newry Road, Mayobridge** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 63 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.4	**Pinewood Glen, Crossmaglen** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 9 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.5	**Seaview, Ardglass** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 39 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.6	**Carran Close, Crossmaglen** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 8 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.7	**Carrick Road, Warrenpoint** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 10 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.8	**Marian Park, Downpatrick** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 54 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.9	**Mary Street, Castlewellan** It was not approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 12

	questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.10	**Rathcillan Wood, Newcastle** It was not approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 34 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.11	**Violet Hill Avenue, Newry** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 82 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.12	**Drumantine View, Newry** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 11 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.13	**McCartans Road, Castlewellan** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 8 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.14	**Railway Cottages, Newcastle** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 6 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.15	**Hillcrest Avenue, Bessbrook** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 36 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.16	**Willowbank Lane, Castlewellan** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 14

	questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).
7.18	**Hunters Park, Newcastle** It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 12 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be the amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.0 Postal Numbering

8.1	Allocation of New Postal Address	329
8.2	Postal queries received	214

Postal queries are address queries from Pointer, Land and Property Services and queries from members of the public.

9.0 Property Certificates

9.1	Number of Property Certificates responded to	1406

10.0	**Requests for Development Naming (Approved)**
10.1	**"Lexington Manor" Saintfield** *By Developer: Ballygood Homes Ltd* The proposal of "**Lexington Manor"** meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No 4 - "The prefix of the name can only be the same as an existing street/road name prefix in the locality if it is accessed from that street or road".
10.2	**"Corrinshigo Lane" Newry** *By Developer: Gervase Mullen* The proposal of **"Corrinshigo Lane"** meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No 4 - "The prefix of the name can only be the same as an existing street/road name prefix in the locality if it is accessed from that street or road" and criterion No 2 – "Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature".
10.3	**"Damolly Lane" Newry** *By Developer: PC Plant* The proposal of **"Damolly Lane"** meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No 4 - "The prefix of the name can only be the same as an existing street/road name

	prefix in the locality if it is accessed from that street or road" and criterion No 2 – "Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature".
10.4	**"Upper Burren Lane" Warrenpoint** *By Developer: DBM Contracts Ltd* The proposal of **"Upper Burren Lane"** meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion: No. 4 - "The prefix of the name can only be the same as an existing street or road name prefix in the locality if it is accessed from that street or road"
10.5	**"Seapoint", Newry** *By Developer: DBM Contracts Ltd* The proposal of **"Seapoint"** meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion: No 2. Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature or social, or historical feature. Seapoint comes from the existing house name 'Seapoint Lodge' formerly located on the site.
10.6	**"Sandy Way", Newry** *By Developer: Colm Meehan* The proposal of **"Sandy Way"** meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion: No. 4 - "The prefix of the name can only be the same as an existing street or road name prefix in the locality if it is accessed from that street or road" The development is accessed off Sandy Hill.
10.7	**"Meadowvale View", Newtownhamilton** *By Developer: O'Hagan Group* The proposal of **"Meadowvale View"** meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion: No. 4 - "The prefix of the name can only be the same as an existing street or road name prefix in the locality if it is accessed from that street or road" The development is accessed off Meadowvale.
10.8	**"Drumgullion Heights", Newry** *By Developer: Geda Construction* The proposal of **"Drumgullion Heights"** meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion: No. 4 - "The prefix of the name can only be the same as an existing street or road name prefix in the locality if it is accessed from that street or road" The development is accessed off Drumgullion Avenue, and the development is on a height, hence Drumgullion Heights.
10.9	**"Glebe Meadows", Saintfield** *By Developer: Northland Developments*

	The proposal of **"Glebe Meadows"** meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion: No 2. Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature or social, or historical feature. Glebe Meadows reflects the site's historical connection to the historic Glebe House, shown on maps dating from 1829-1862, and its countryside setting, with "Meadows" recognising the surrounding rural landscape.

Recommendation:

For Noting:
Signed: -

Jonathan McGilly
Assistant Director Regeneration

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 12th October 2026
Subject:	Newry BID
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism

Purpose of Report:

For Noting

1.0	**Purpose and Background**
1.1	Purpose: To note the recommendations as set out in Section 3 of this report. Background: Following a successful Newry BID Revote, a new and updated Operating Agreement is in place between Newry BID and Council. One of the agreed actions within this agreement is that Newry BID will submit to Council a quarterly update on their delivery against BID Strategic Priorities as set out in their proposals for 2026 – 2031.
2.0	**Key Issues**
2.1	BID Strategic Priorities 2026 – 2031 - UPDATE Appendix one sets out the update from Newry BID on performance in Q2 against their new Strategic Priorities as set out ahead of the BID revote
3.0	**Recommendations**
3.1	To note the quarter two update from Newry BID on delivery performance against BID Strategic Priorities 2026 – 2031
4.0	**Resource Implications**
4.1	None
5.0	**Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations**
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision

	No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	**Due regard to Rural Needs**
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	**Appendices**
7.1	Appendix 1 – Newry BID Q2 update on BID Strategic Priorities 2026-2031
8.0	**Background Documents**
8.1	None

Back to Agenda

Update to ERT
July- September 2026

NEWRY BID BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT







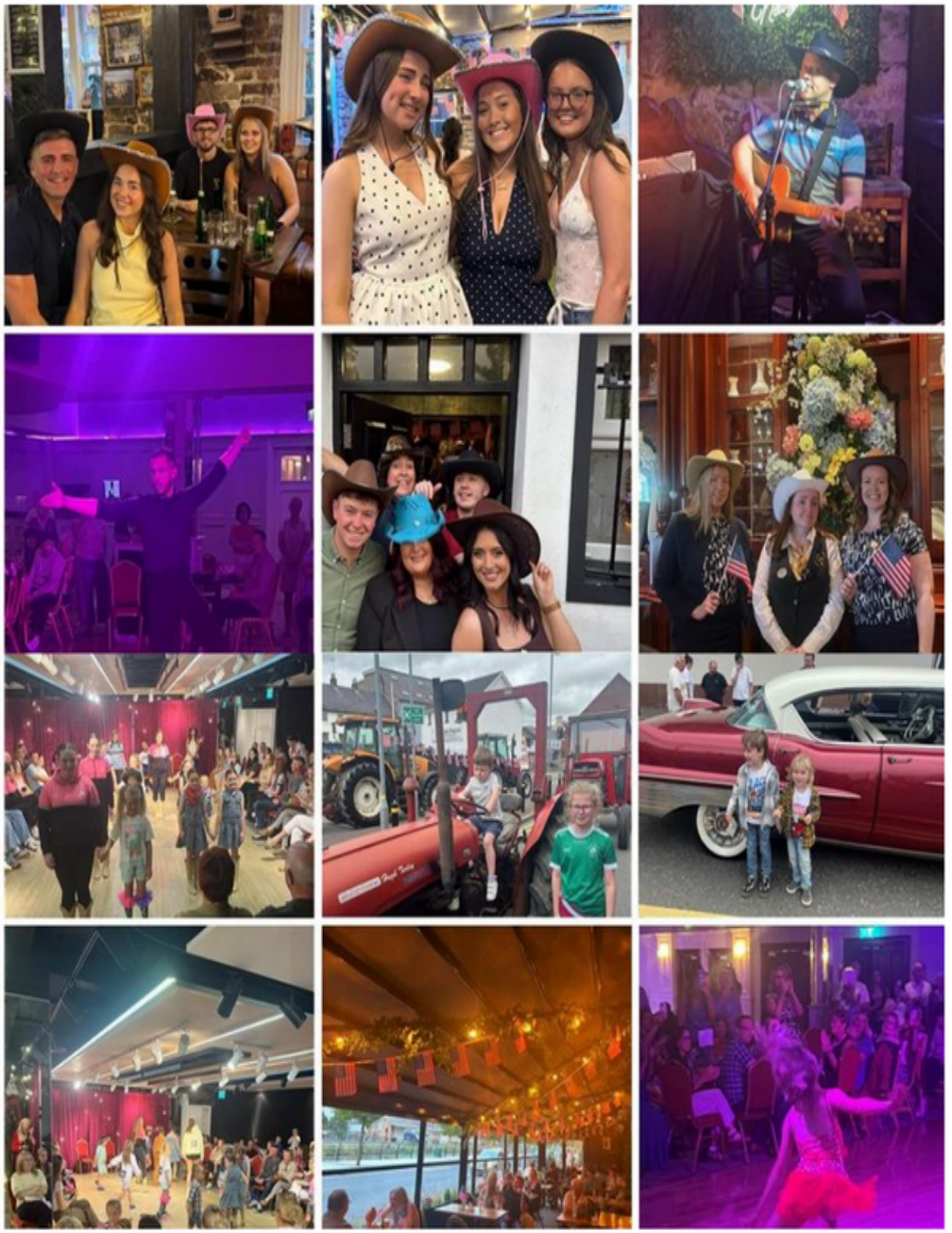


Back to Agenda

Marketing / Events – Newry Goes Nashville

Hospitality's biggest weekend outside of Christmas

- 32 participating venues
- Over 90 individual events
- More than 60 live performers
- Extensive family entertainment
- A dedicated children's programme
- Pop-up performances throughout the city centre
- A coordinated marketing campaign across print, digital, outdoor advertising and social media
- 3,000 leaflets
- Extensive Facebook campaign – 420k views over the festival period






NEWRY GOES
NASHVILLE
DARKNESS


NASHVILLE


THE
BOOKSHELF
CASH


23

Marketing / Events - Summer in the City

Free Family Friendly Activities on summer Saturdays and Sundays across a range of venues in July and August:

For example:

- Penalty Shootout at Buttercrane
- Sign and Rhyme in Newry Library
- Summer crafts at Studio 23
- Music in Courtney's Steakhouse
- Sunday morning music in Coffee Shops
- Facepainting in Sainsburys
- Pilates in Buttercrane
- Dance classes
- On street activities / give aways
- Beach Club event in Newry Market
- BID promoted this campaign via social media, radio ads, billboards/signs, website, press, mailing lists, newsletters and across multiple partner & member platforms.






NEWRY
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
SUMMER
in the city
NEWRY.COM
JULY &
AUGUST


Ticket Zone
Mon-Sat
8.30 am-6.15 pm
2 hours
No return
within 60 mins
TIMONEY'S


oneills


iúr-fm
Newry's Local Radio
SUMMER
in the city
JULY & AUGUST







Marketing / Events - Iur Cinn Fleadh

- BID main sponsor and mentor / support to volunteers
- Over 60 events across Newry
- Financial assistance
- Marketing support- billboards and socials
- Access to promoters for specific events
- Support events including Food Tour, book launch at The Bookshelf, Market activity
-









Marketing / Events - Water Festival

- Key delivery partner and co-funder with DEA and co-funders such as TBUC





Marketing - Various

BID supports a range local and community activities / events to encourage footfall, dwell time and support Newry
BID also markets Newry itself & BID members via on-line, press, Bill Boards, Radio, and VMS signs







Marketing / Events BID Food Tours

- Venues include; The Bank , Guru Indian Cuisine, Art Bar Funkel,Canal Court Hotel, Courtneys Steakhouse, The Oliver, Loft 27, Magees, McSwiggans & Phillips Fruit









Supporting Business - Training

- Day to Day operational support including:
- Member Training / Skills / Recruitment





Supporting Business - Parklets

- 5 year journey recently came to fruition
- O'Hagan Street (Dolce Vita restaurant) & Hill Street (Café Krem)



Supporting Business

- General problem solving including
- Caravans
- Social Housing issues
- Working in partnership to limit disruption parades / road works





Supporting Business

- Sponsor Newry Business Awards
- Sponsor SRC Business / Graduate Awards
- Acknowledging Member milestones / awards





Representing Members
Partnership with Hospitality Ulster

- Twice Yearly joint meetings with Hospitality Ulster
- Joint Training – eg Standard Door Policy across Hospitality
- Joint Lobbying on topics including: Fleadh, Rates, VAT, & taxis,





Back to Agenda

NEWRY BID
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Representation

- Partnership with Newry Chamber on local issues including Peoples Forum
- DEA
- Regeneration stakeholder groups
- NI Night Time Commission
- NI BIDs – working on 10 year impact report
- British BIDs
- Association of Town & City Management
- One Voice
- Job Fairs
- Communication via fortnightly newsletters and regular ad hoc updates: socials / newry.com /direct

Fair & Workable Parking

NEWRY BID BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Continue to provide over 250 FREE parking spaces daily at North Street – largely to employees and to a lesser extend visitors



Lobbying – Parking (CPZ unfairness)

NEWRY BID BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

BID lobbied & secured One hour Grace period made permanent

BID promoting via billboards, press ads, window graphics, leaflets and social media

Ongoing push for the permanent removal of Controlled Parking Zone & its replacement with a fair parking enforcement system





BID Flood Resilience Group

- £350K Flood for Properties Grant secured by the BID from Department of Economy launched
- BID delivering this in partnership with Rivers Agency
- 35 members to benefit from this pilot
- Flood doors and windows
- Derisks Sugar Island going forward
- Flood Preparedness training ongoing
- Flood Insurance Presentations ongoing



Back to Agenda

Cleaner Greener Safer – BID PSNI days

NEWRY BID BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

- BID PSNI days continue to focus on Retail Crime and ASB
- Dedicated days where BID pays PSNI to provide officers to focus solely on issues impacting BID members
- Focus and visibility delivers results from moving on street beggars to targeting shop lifters and hard core ASB
- Very impactful and reassuring to businesses

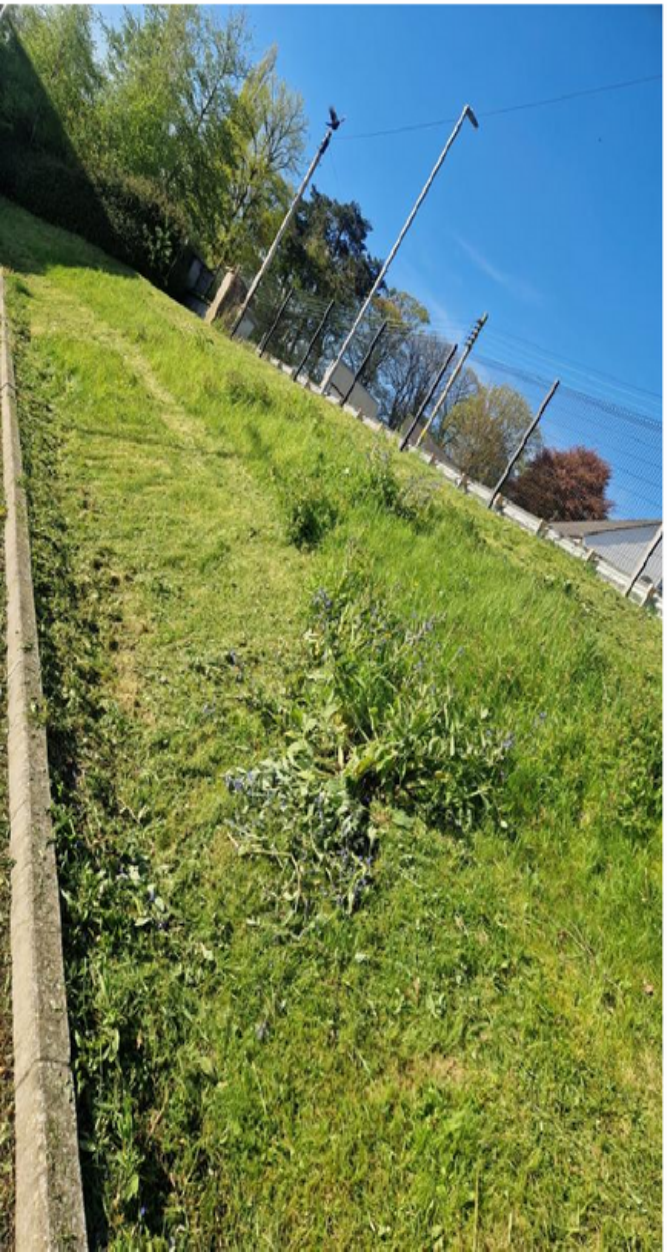
Back to Agenda

NEWRY BID

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Cleaner Greener Safer

- Clean Team focus on members properties







Lobbying – Dereliction / Regeneration

BID directly supported 12 applications for Vacant Property Grant

At least another 10 not submitted due to difficulties in getting costings

At least another 15 not submitted as seek to convert vacant space to apartment

Very popular and impactful scheme – needs to be expanded



Newry BID working with British BIDs re best practice regeneration examples

Lobbying -Rates

NEWRY BID BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

- Regular meetings with Department of Finance Rates Policy Team
- Submissions made re a Fairer Business Rates System – including Social Value
- Submission made of Vacant Rates Relief Consultation
- Research commenced in advance of Reval 27

Land & Property Services

Department of Finance



Lobbying / Representing - A Festival for Newry

Ongoing lobbying for a festival for Newry

In interim BID continues to successfully deliver:

- Newry Goes Nashville (see separate attached report)
- Be the main delivery partner for Iur Cinn Fleadh
- Run extensive rolling campaigns such as Health in the City & Summer in the City

Going Forward

For the next quarter Newry BID will be focusing on a number of key events and initiatives:

- Spooks in the City Halloween activity
- Christmas programme of activity and marketing
- New Christmas Charity Lunch with Chamber
- Dealing with unease around Newry Peoples Forum
- Further Rates consultation
- Supporting members
- Newry Goes Nashville planning
- Investigating city wide gift card initiative



Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 12 October 2026
Subject:	PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Sonya Stephenson – Head of Programmes Sarah McClory – Project Coordinator

Purpose of Report:

For Noting

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Purpose To note the recommendations as set out in section 3. Background The PEACEPLUS Partnership met on the 24th September 2026.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Projects to be progressed: Strand 3 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan The Partnership have agreed the procurement and delivery of the below activity under Strand 3 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan. • 3.2 Minority Community Support programme - Journeys & Belonging for Slieve Croob and Rowallane • 3.2 Minority Community Support programme - Exploring Newry, Mourne and Down through Heritage, Culture and Community Art. • 3.7 Shared History and Culture - WW2 connections Newcastle.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	1) To note that officers will now proceed with the procurement and delivery of below activities under Strand 3 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan • 3.2 Minority Community Support programme - Journeys & Belonging for Slieve Croob and Rowallane • 3.2 Minority Community Support programme - Exploring Newry, Mourne and Down through Heritage, Culture and Community Art. • 3.7 Shared History and Culture - WW2 connections Newcastle. 2) To note the minutes of PEACEPLUS Partnership on 24th September 2026.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	Revenue/Payroll: Project 85% funded by the EU and 15% by the two Governments.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. Yes – Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed
7.0	Appendices
7.1	These items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph **3** of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - **Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)** and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of Business. 1) PEACEPLUS Project Board Minutes 24th September 2026
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 12th October 2026
Subject:	Regional Balance Bill public consultation
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism.
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Aveen McVeigh Head of Regeneration and Business Development

Purpose of Report:

For Noting

1.0	**Purpose and Background**
1.1	Purpose To note the recommendation in section 3.1 of this report. Background The Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for the Economy hosted a call for evidence on the Regional Balance Bill. The bill seeks to address regional disparities in economic performance and living standards across Northern Ireland.
2.0	**Key Issues**
2.1	The Regional Balance Bill will make provision for a statutory framework to improve regional balance in Northern Ireland; to impose a duty on the Executive to develop, adopt, maintain and implement a framework setting out how disparities in regional economic performance and living standards are to be addressed across government; to confer functions on the Department for the Economy in relation to the preparation of the framework, its reporting to the Assembly and providing guidance and research; and for connected purposes. The consultation was open to the public, businesses, community and voluntary organisations, local councils, public bodies and academic experts. A response was submitted on 22 September 2026 on behalf of Council. The evidence gathered will help inform the Committee's scrutiny, including evidence sessions with stakeholders, detailed consideration of the Bill, and recommendations to the Department for the Economy.
3.0	**Recommendations**
3.1	It is recommended to note the response to Regional Balance Bill.
4.0	**Resource Implications**
4.1	N/A
5.0	**Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations**
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations

5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	**Due regard to Rural Needs**
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	**Appendices**
7.1	This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business Appendix 1 - Regional Balance Bill response
8.0	**Background Documents**
8.1	none

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 12th October 2026
Subject:	UUEPC - Economic Outlook NMDDC
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism.
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Aveen McVeigh Head of Regeneration and Business Development

Purpose of Report:

For Noting

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Purpose To note the update on Council's Economic Outlook compiled by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC). Background UUEPC produces economic forecasts for Council twice a year. The forecasting model generates two scenarios, Baseline and Upper, for both Northern Ireland and the Council area. These scenarios cover a range of indicators, including employment growth, cost of doing business, and Gross Value Added (GVA), which measures the value of goods and services produced within the economy.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	A high-level summary of the report is presented below; A copy of the full report is attached at appendix 1 Employment • Under the baseline scenario, total employment is forecast to increase by around 5,530 jobs over the next decade, reaching approximately 85,590 by 2035. This represents an average annual growth rate of 0.7%. • Under the upper scenario, employment is projected to expand at a faster annual rate of 1.0%, resulting in around 88,150 jobs by 2035. • Both scenarios suggest sustained employment growth over the next decade, with employment reaching a new high under either scenario. Sectors • Jobs within the district remain concentrated in Wholesale and Retail, Health and Social Work, and Manufacturing. • Over the 10-year forecast period, the Construction, Hospitality and Manufacturing sectors are expected to be the major contributors to the baseline jobs growth figure of 5,530, accounting for 45.0% of total growth. • The sectoral composition of the growth reflects the district's broad employment base, with future job growth increasingly driven by Construction and service-based sectors.

	• Over the next decade, Construction shows the largest increase, with 1,180 additional jobs under the baseline scenario and 1,620 under the upper scenario. Hospitality is also projected to expand indicating growing demand for labour market skills compatible with the service sector. • Health and Social Work is forecast to add 610 jobs in the 10-year forecast period under a baseline scenario. This reflects demographic pressures and ongoing demand for healthcare and social care services. GVA • Over the next decade, Real GVA is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 2.0%, reaching approximately £4.8 billion by 2035. Conclusion • Newry, Mourne and Down has positive employment prospects and an improving business environment, but raising productivity and supporting the growth and survival of businesses will be important to translating this dynamism into higher-value economic activity.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the update on Council's Economic Outlook compiled by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC).
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	Completion of the forecast included within the agreement with UUEPC and included in 26/27 budget.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves

	Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	Appendices
7.1	• Appendix 1 – UUEPC Economic Outlook NMDDC • Appendix 2 - UUEPC July 2026 NI Outlook
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University | Economic Policy Centre


(Image from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council)

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Economic Outlook

September 2026

Contents


Royal County Down Golf Course (image from Tourism Ireland)

Introduction

Northern Ireland - Economic Context

Northern Ireland - Economic Outlook

Newry, Mourne and Down - Recent Performance and Economic Outlook

Newry, Mourne and Down Business Dynamism

Concluding Points

Glossary

Introduction


Killeavy Castle (Image from Visit Mourne Gullion Strangford)

- The local government economic forecasts are based on the most recent UUEPC Northern Ireland (NI) Outlook (published July 2026).
- The latest Outlook highlighted the ongoing strength in NI's labour market, despite local and global challenges.
- The Outlook forecasts job growth of 1.0% in 2026 and growth is expected to continue for the duration of the forecast period with NI reaching over 1 million jobs by 2032.
- UUEPC's inhouse economic forecasting model is used to produce two economic scenarios (Baseline and Upper) for the NI economy across a range of indicators.
    - Under the Baseline, the NI employment rate rises by approximately 5 percentage points over the 10-year forecast period.
    - The Upper scenario forecasts a higher, more aspirational employment rate for NI, which factors in policy success in achieving a substantially lower inactivity rate.

Ulster University | Economic Policy Centre

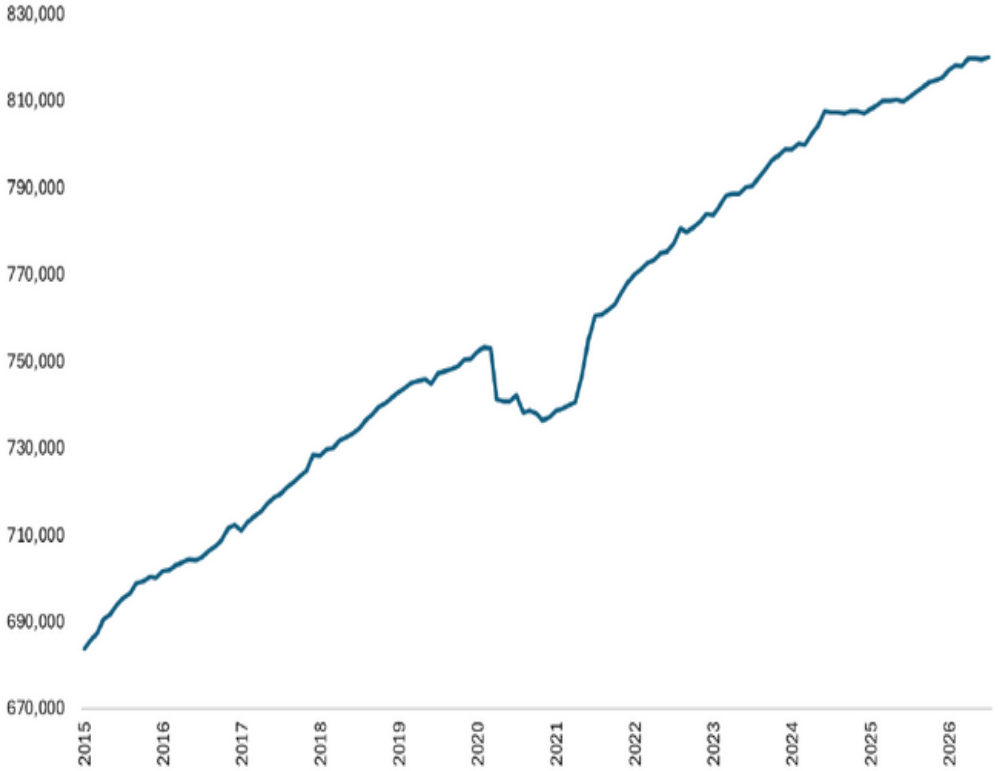
Northern Ireland Economic Context

Employee growth continues

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

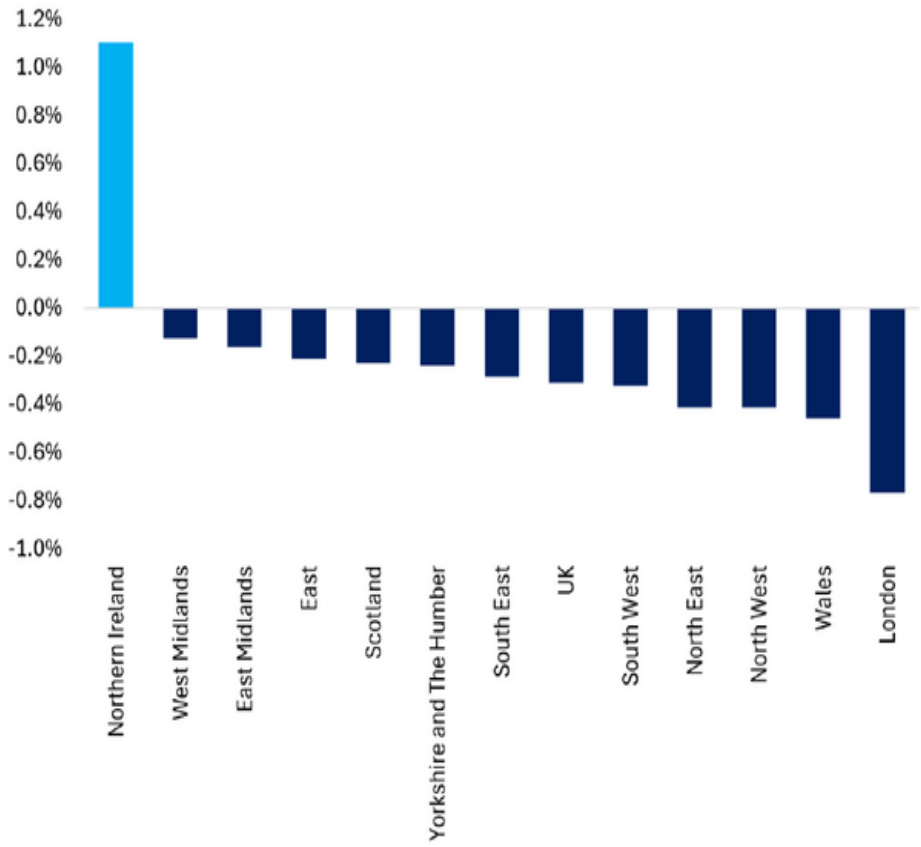
Payrolled employees, NI, January 2015- July 2026, Seasonally adjusted



Source: HMRC

Note: PAYE employment data is allocated to regions and countries according to the residence of the recipient.

% change in payrolled employees, UK, July 2025- July 2026, Seasonally adjusted



Source: HMRC

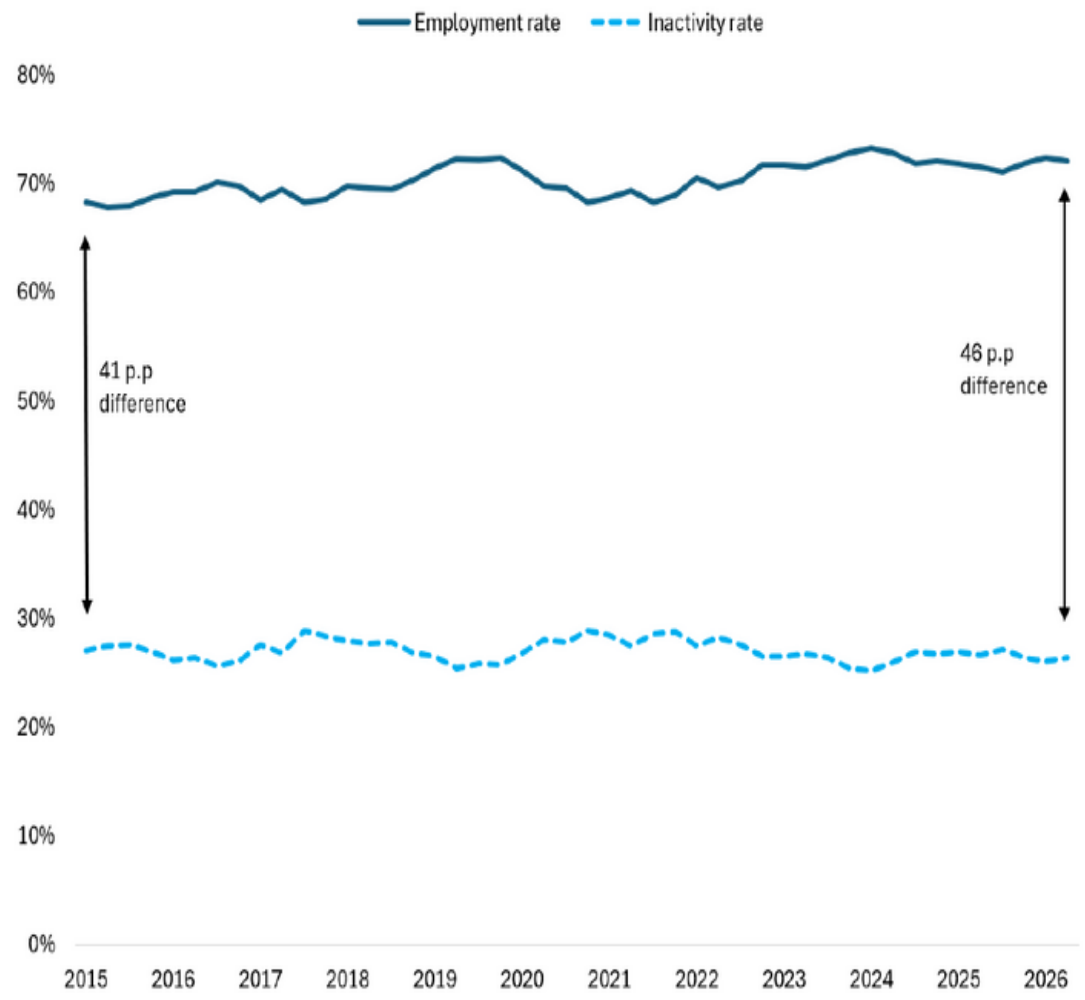
- NI recorded a high of 819,900 payrolled employees in July 2026, a 1.1% increase from July 2025. NI continued to be the only UK region to experience an increase in payrolled employees over this period.
- The UK experienced a 0.3% decline, whilst London had the largest reduction at 0.8%.

Persistent inactivity

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Employment and inactivity rates, 16-64, NI, 2015-2026



Source: LFS

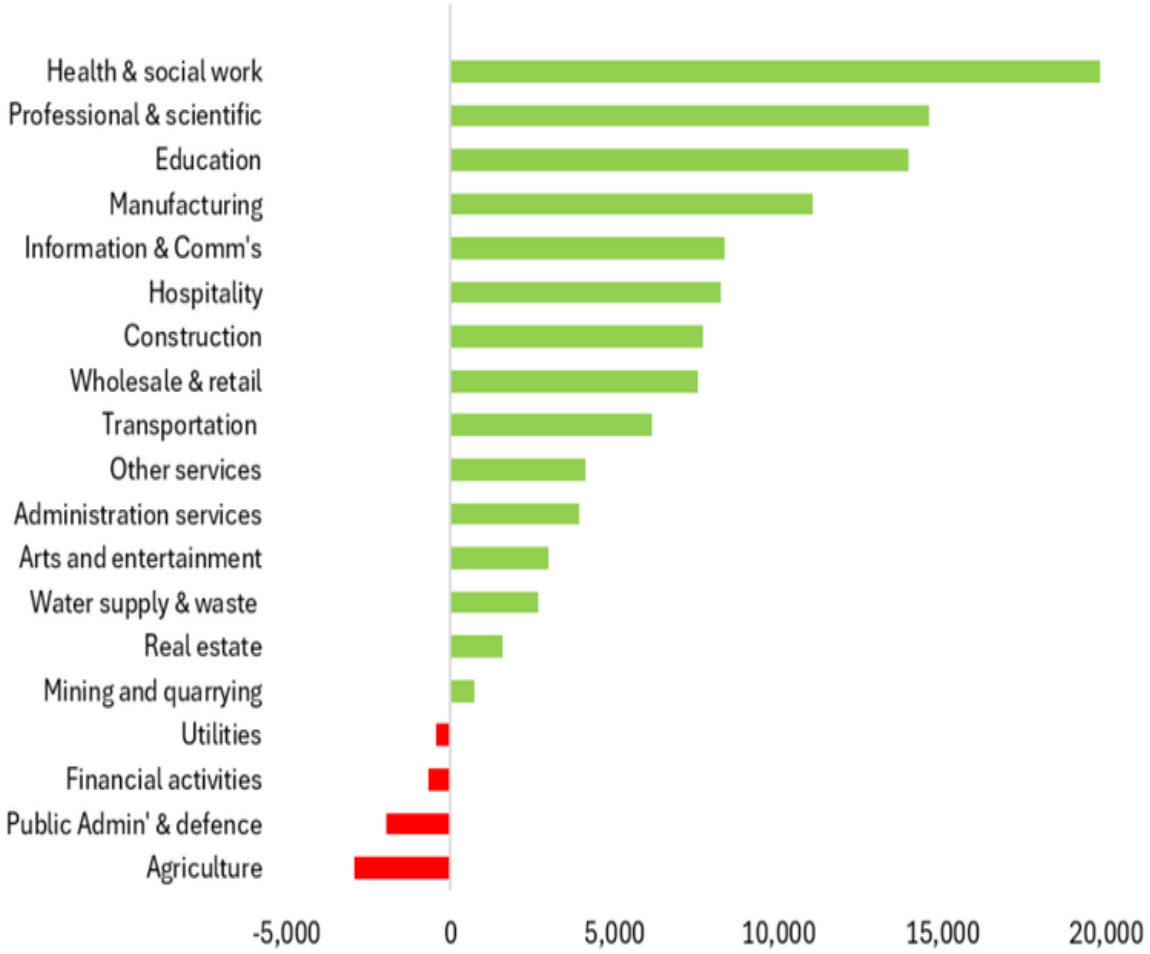
- In Q2 2026 NI's employment rate was 72.0%, up from 71.5% in the same quarter in 2025.
- This equates to approximately 859,000 people aged 16–64 in employment in Q2 2026. Over the longer term, this is an increase from 794,000 at the start of 2015.
- Meanwhile NI's inactivity rate was 26.4% in Q2 2026, down slightly from 26.6% in Q2 2025.
- This latest rate indicates that 315,000 16–64 year-olds in NI are economically inactive, the same amount who were inactive in Q1 2015.

Sectoral changes over a decade

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University
UUEPC
Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Change in workforce jobs by sector, NI, 2015- 2025



Source: Workforce Jobs, NOMIS

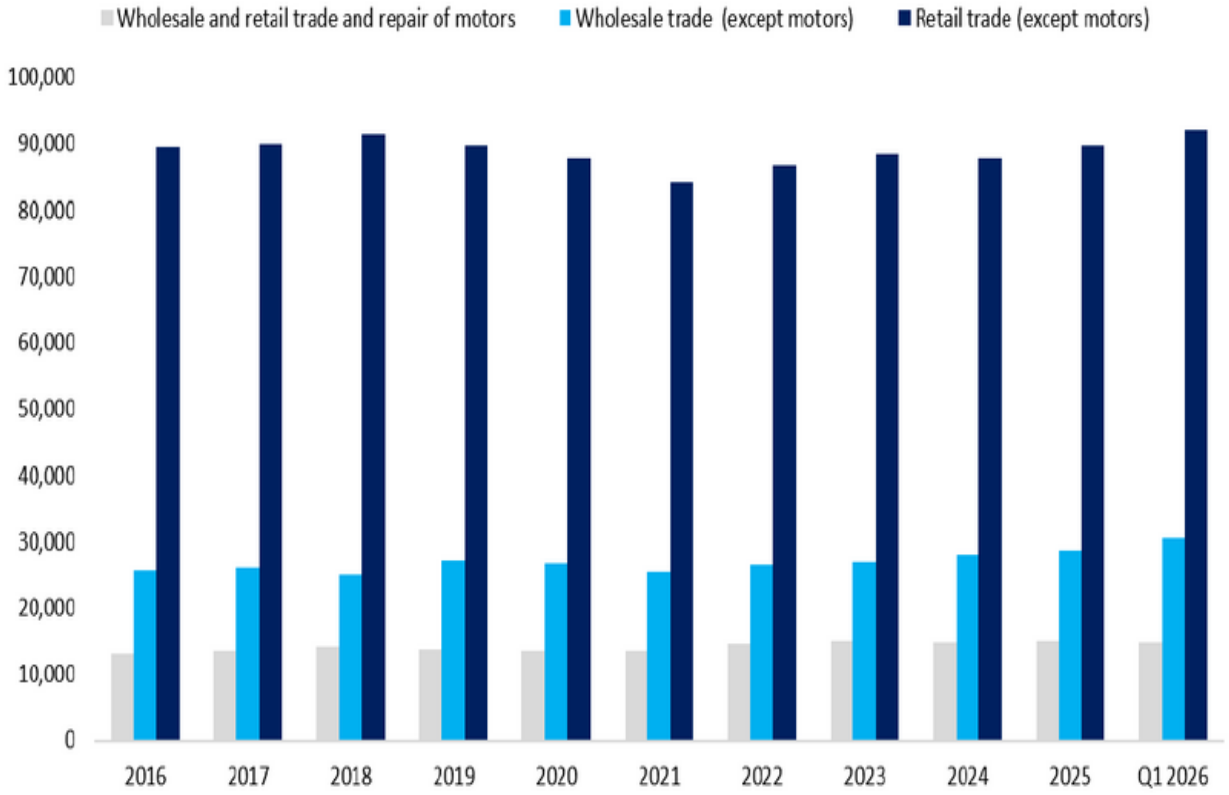
- Overall NI created nearly 107,000 jobs between 2015-2025.
- Most sectors experienced growth during this time, four sectors (Health and Social Work, Professional and Scientific Services, Education, and Manufacturing) accounted for 56% of the jobs created during this period.
- Four sectors (Utilities, Finance, Public' Admin' and Defence, and Agriculture) collectively decreased by just over 6,000 jobs.
- Despite the role of e-commerce within Wholesale and Retail, the sector created over 7,500 jobs during this period in Northern Ireland. This contrasts with the UK which has experienced a gradual decline.

Wholesale & Retail standing firm

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Wholesale and retail annual average jobs (2-digit SIC), NI, 2016-Q1 2026

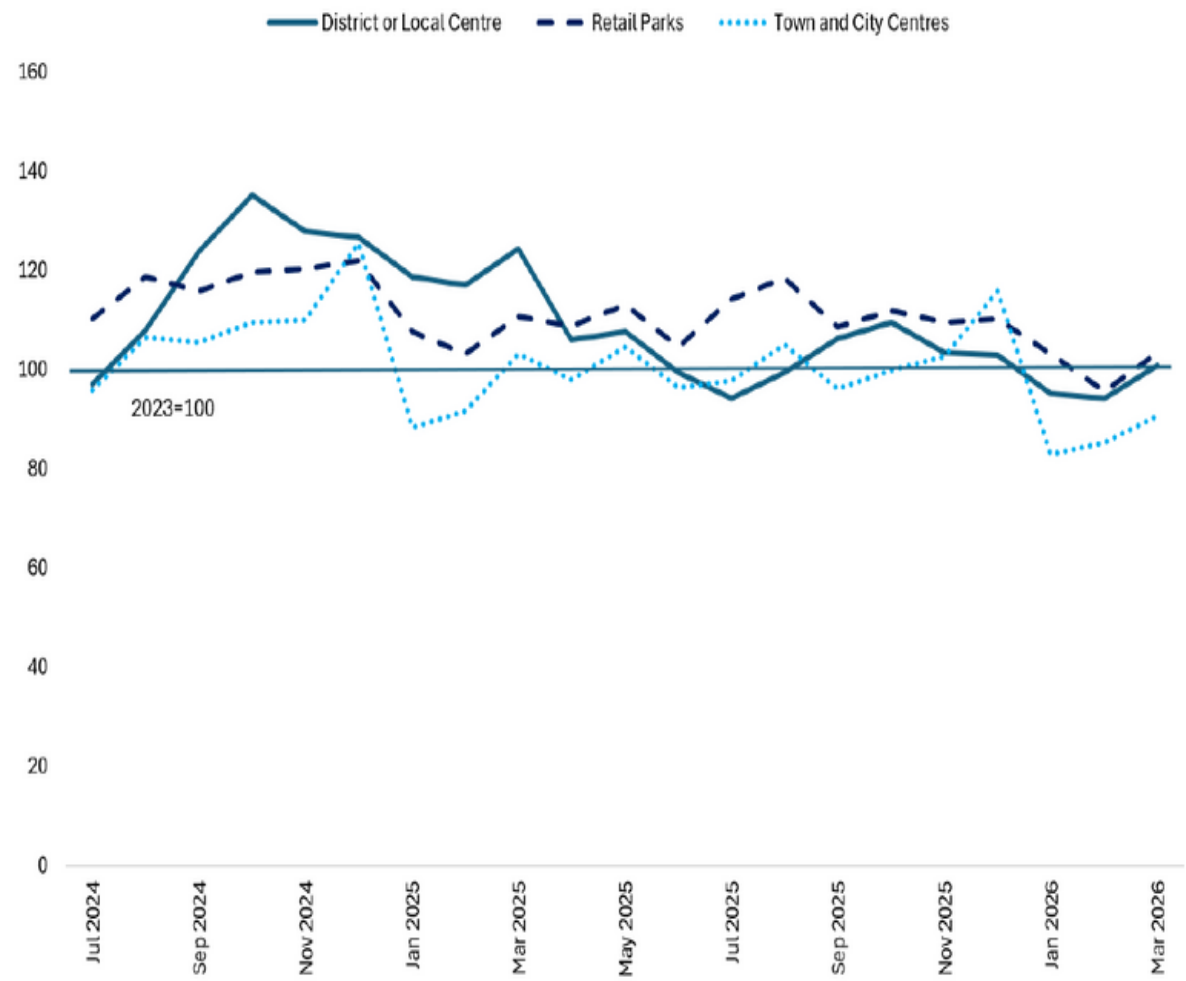


Source: QES

- The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) provides further insights into recent trends within the Wholesale and Retail sector in NI through a detailed breakdown of employee jobs across its three subsectors. All three subsectors recorded an increase in employee jobs over the last decade.
- **Wholesale and motor trades:** Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles experienced the strongest growth, increasing by 14.8% between 2016 and 2025 to reach 14,930 employee jobs.
- **Wholesale trade:** Wholesale trade also grew strongly, increasing by 12.2% over the same period to average 28,700 employee jobs in 2025.
- **Retail:** Retail recorded more modest long-term growth, increasing by just 0.3% between 2016 and 2025. However, the subsector added nearly 2,150 employee jobs during 2025, with further growth in Q1 2026 bringing the total to 92,250 employee jobs. Around 65% of these employee jobs are part-time.

Retail Footfall Indicators

Monthly footfall by site type, NI, Non-seasonally adjusted, 2024-2026 (2023=100)



Source: ONS

Note: District and Local Centres: Smaller-scale retail and service hubs that serve the immediate local community.

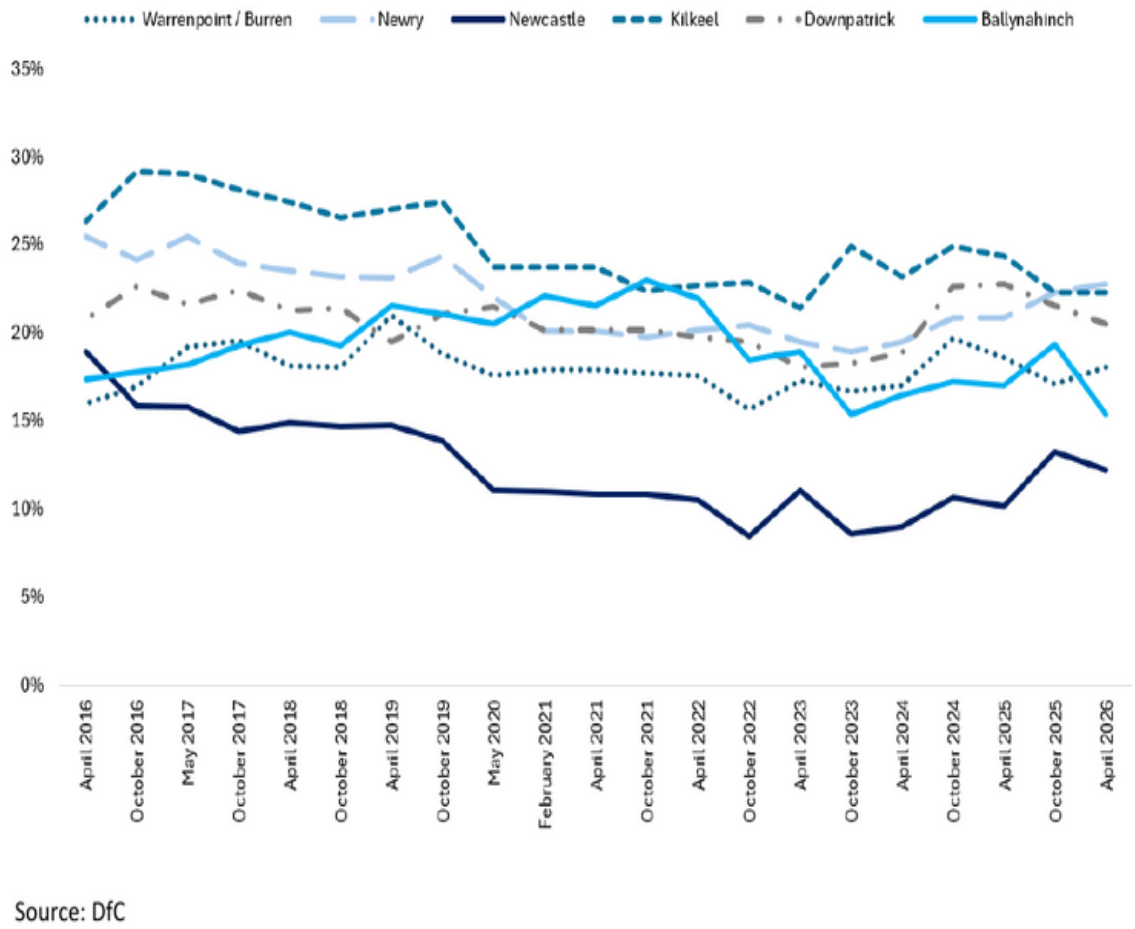
- The disaggregation of retail footfall provides further insights into recent trends in the retail sector, with retail parks generally recording stronger footfall than town and city centres.
- Footfall in retail parks remained above the 2023 average between 2024 and March 2026, while district and local centres also recorded relatively strong footfall, although this eased back towards the 2023 average following a peak in 2024.
- In contrast, footfall in town and city centres has been more subdued, fluctuating over the period and remaining below the 2023 average since January 2026. This suggests that town and city centres have performed relatively weakly compared with retail parks and district and local centres.
- However, some caution is required when interpreting these trends, given the relatively short time series available and the potential for seasonal movements to influence monthly footfall.

Non-domestic properties vacancies

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Non-domestic Property Vacancy Rates, Newry, Mourne and Down, 2016-2026



Source: DfC

Non-domestic Property Vacancy Rates, NI, April 2026

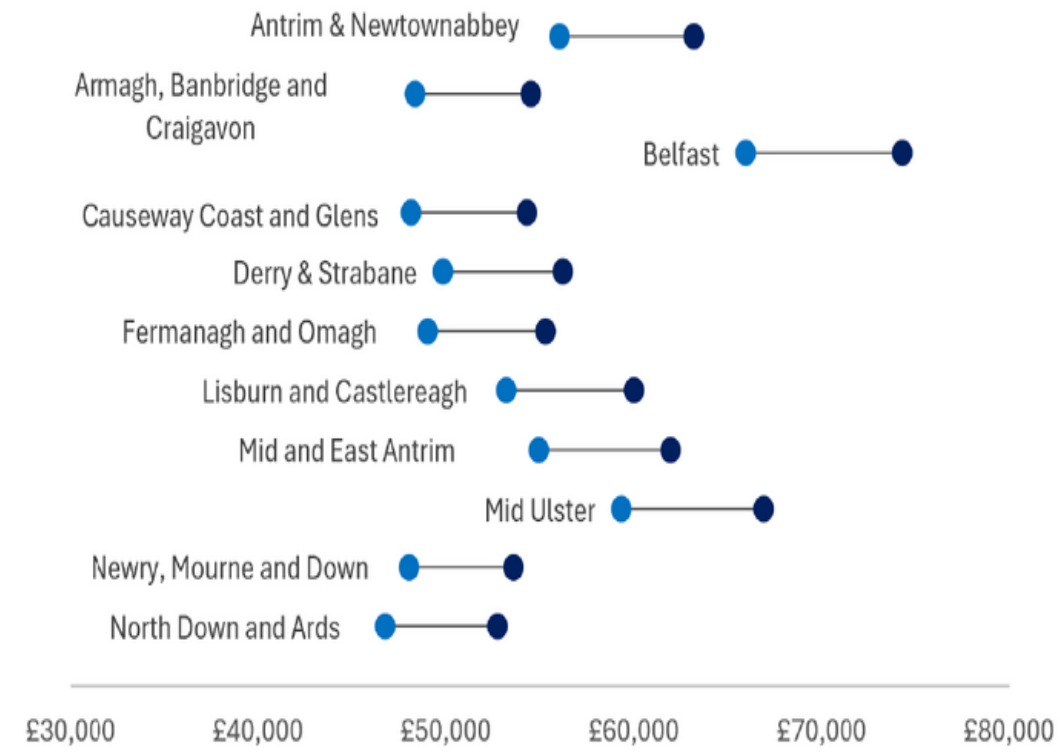
No. of Properties	No. of Vacant Properties	% of Vacant Properties
21,568	4,726	21.9%

- In April 2026, nearly 4,730 non-domestic properties were vacant across NI, equivalent to 21.9% of all non-domestic properties. This represents a modest improvement from 24.8% in 2016, but vacancy remains relatively high. The continued prevalence of vacant non-domestic properties highlights the challenges facing high streets. Repurposing vacant properties could support the vitality of town and city centres, potentially helping to strengthen footfall.
- In the areas shown here, in April 2026 Newry had the highest vacancy rate at 23% when there were over 220 vacant properties. This was followed by Kilkeel with a rate of 22% and 43 vacant properties. Newcastle had the lowest rate at 12%, a 7 p.p reduction over the same period. Meanwhile, Warrenpoint had a 2p.p increase to have a rate of 18%.

Productivity

Productivity, measured here as GVA per job, is a key driver of long-term economic growth and improvements in living standards. Differences in productivity across local areas reflect a range of factors, including sectoral composition, investment, infrastructure and business performance. Despite forecasted productivity growth across NI, spatial differences remain between council areas.

Change in Real productivity, LGDs, 2023 - 2035



Source: ONS, NISRA & UUEPC

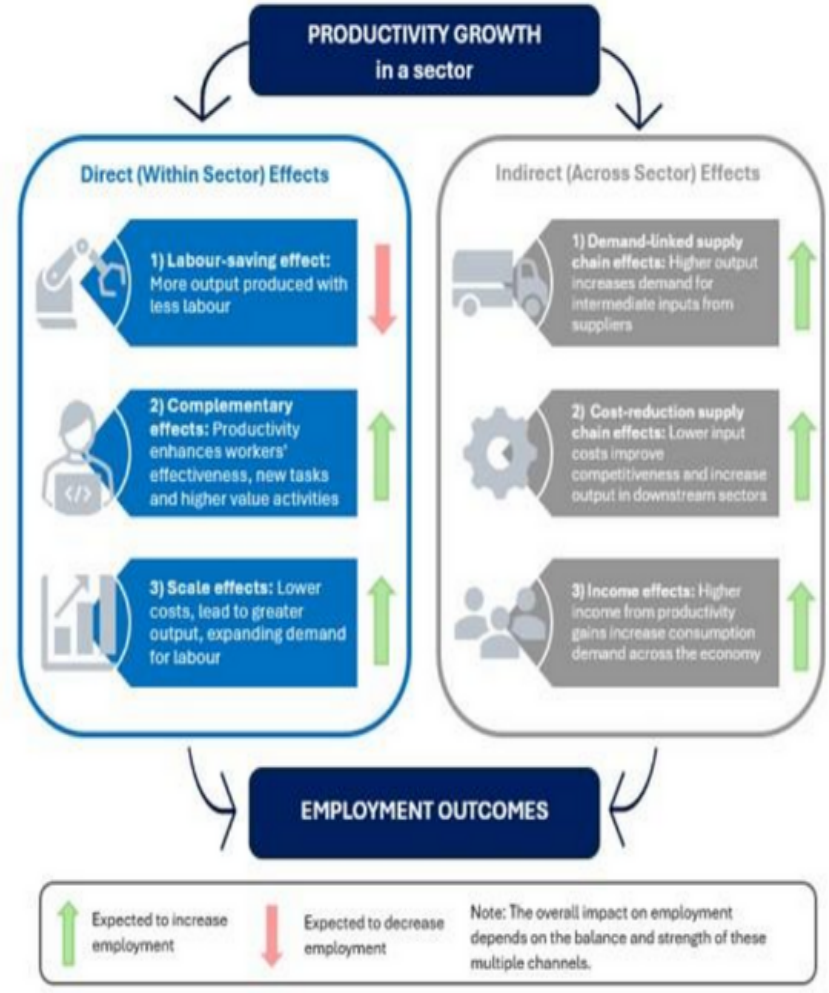
- Real GVA per job is forecast to increase across all 11 council areas between 2023 and 2035, pointing to broad-based productivity growth over the forecast period. However, growth is relatively modest at around 1% per year, meaning that while productivity levels are expected to improve, the existing differences between council areas are likely to persist.
- The existing productivity hierarchy is expected to remain relatively persistent. Belfast is forecast to retain the highest level of GVA per job, increasing from approximately £65,900 in 2023 to £74,300 by 2035.
- Mid Ulster is forecast to remain the strongest-performing council area outside Belfast, with GVA per job rising from around £59,300 to £66,900, while Antrim & Newtownabbey is also projected to remain among the higher-productivity areas.

Productivity Growth and Jobs

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Channels in which productivity growth may affect employment



Source: UUEPC

- Productivity growth is essential for long-term prosperity. Recent analysis undertaken by UUEPC* demonstrates that productivity growth does not necessarily mean fewer jobs. Its employment impact varies considerably across industries.
- The analysis indicates that some sectors experience direct labour-saving effects from productivity improvements, particularly those with a high proportion of routine and codifiable tasks. These effects are partly offset by positive spillovers across the wider economy, as productivity gains support supply chains, incomes, consumption and business activity.
- Overall, historically productivity growth has been more closely associated with employment reallocation than widespread job losses. The ability of workers to access new opportunities is therefore critical.
- **The mix of industries in a region matters.** Areas with more jobs in sectors where technology can replace workers may face greater pressures from productivity improvements, while those with more jobs in sectors where technology complements workers may be better placed to benefit from employment growth.

* Productivity Growth and Employment Dynamics

Retaining Talent and Reducing Costs in Social Care


Image from UU

- Staff turnover represents a significant financial burden for organisations, including NI's Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts. As part of a wider research project, UU estimated the fiscal cost of social worker turnover.

- In 2024/25, 5,200 employees left the HSC workforce, a turnover rate of 7.0%. Social services recorded over 620 leavers (6.6%), the third-highest leaving rate across staff groups.

- Focusing on Child/Family Care Social Workers, who make up 44% of social workers in HSC Trusts, the analysis estimates that just over 140 staff left during 2024/25. The estimated cost of this turnover—including recruitment, training, development and lost productivity—was £49,836 per employee, resulting in an estimated annual cost of £7.13 million. This is likely a conservative estimate as it excludes wider impacts such as increased caseloads, staff wellbeing and service user outcomes.

- The findings demonstrate that staff turnover is not just a workforce challenge but a significant fiscal pressure. Investing in staff retention, professional development, wellbeing and workforce planning can help reduce costs, maintain service continuity and improve long-term organisational sustainability.

Note: HSC workforce data collected from the NI HSC Workforce Census, March 2025

Ulster University | Economic Policy Centre

Northern Ireland Economic Outlook

NI Summer 2026 Outlook

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre



UUEPC OUTLOOK

July 2026

Ulster University

Labour Market Strength Underpins Economic Growth

Northern Ireland's (NI) labour market has continued to perform strongly over the past year. Workforce jobs increased at the fastest annual rate of any UK region between Q1 2025 and Q1 2026, while employment contracted in nine of the twelve UK regions. This reflects continued expansion in public sector employment, alongside sustained growth across parts of the private sector.

Private services have made an important contribution to growth. While Wholesale and Retail employment has declined across much of Great Britain since the pandemic, NI has continued to record employment growth in the sector. This suggests that the structural changes affecting the retail sector have been less pronounced in NI than elsewhere in the UK, although some moderation in employment growth is likely as these adjustments continue.

Looking ahead, job growth is expected to continue in the near term, supported by ongoing demand for Health and Social Care services and continued activity across private services. However, the pace of growth is expected to ease gradually, with employment growth increasingly aligning with broader UK trends over the longer term. Current projections indicate that the number of workforce jobs in NI will exceed one million by 2032.

The wider economic outlook remains closely linked to developments across the UK economy. Expectations for further interest rate reductions have been delayed as inflation has remained higher than expected, partly due to higher energy prices earlier in the year. More recently, however, energy prices have stabilised and concerns that geopolitical tensions will lead to prolonged inflation have eased. As a result, financial markets increasingly expect interest rates to continue falling gradually over the medium term. Lower borrowing costs should support household spending, business investment and housing activity, creating a more favourable environment for economic growth in both NI and the UK.

Key Forecasts

	Northern Ireland (NI)				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
GVA (£) Growth Rate	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
Jobs Growth	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%
Productivity (£)	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%
Employment Rate (% of working people, 16-64)	71.8%	72.5%	73.0%	73.6%	74.1%
	United Kingdom (UK)				
GVA (£) Growth Rate	1.0%	1.4%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%
Jobs Growth	-0.2%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
	Macroeconomic Variables				
Interest Rates (end of year)	3.75%	3.50%	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%
Inflation (end of year)	3.1%	1.9%	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%

- NI's labour market has continued to perform strongly over the past year. Workforce jobs increased at the fastest annual rate of any UK region between Q1 2025 and Q1 2026, while employment contracted in nine of the twelve UK regions. This reflects continued expansion in public sector employment, alongside sustained growth across parts of the private sector.

- UUEPC forecasts suggest that there could be an additional 62.8k jobs by 2035 in a baseline scenario, under the upper scenario there could be an additional 89.1k jobs. Consequently, NI is anticipated to surpass the 1 million jobs mark by 2032.

- The Summer 2026 Outlook suggests that NI's output (GVA) may grow by 1.6% in 2026 and 2027 but increasing slightly to 1.7% per annum until 2030. GVA per employee (productivity) meanwhile is estimated to grow by 0.5% in 2026 and may continue to pick up to reach 1.1% by 2030.

NI's output growing faster than the UK

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Real GVA Growth: NI, 2026-2030



Real GVA Growth: UK, 2025-2029



- The Outlook for NI's economic performance has improved since our January 2026 report. NI's output, measured using GVA, is anticipated to grow by 1.6% in 2026 and 2027 before picking up slightly to 1.7% per annum until 2028.
- Meanwhile, UK growth is anticipated to be at a lower rate of 1.0% in 2026, increasing to 1.4% in 2027 and reaching 1.6% by 2030.
- NI's growth will be supported by increased employment and productivity growth.

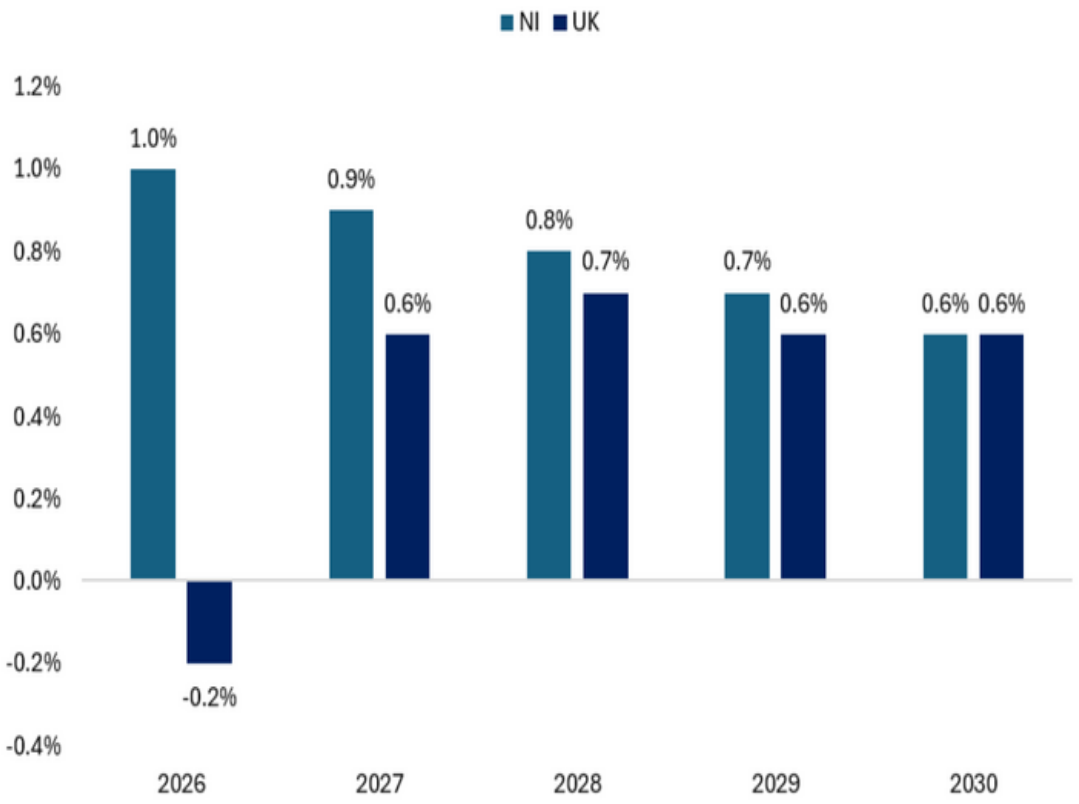
Source: UUEPC & OBR

NI expected to outpace the UK in job growth

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

NI and UK jobs growth expectations, 2026-2030



Source: UUEPC & OBR

- In 2025 there were 955.3k jobs in NI. Looking ahead, under the baseline scenario, jobs are forecasted to surpass the 1million mark by 2032.
- This growth underlies the forecasted increase in NI's employment rate which is anticipated to reach 71.8% in 2026 and continuing to increase to 74.1% in 2030.
- NI's job growth is forecasted to be growing at a faster rate than the UK where a slight decline of 0.2% is expected in 2026, compared to 1.0% growth in NI.

Employment rate forecasts (16-64), NI, 2026-2030

2026	71.8%
2027	72.5%
2028	73.0%
2029	73.6%
2030	74.1%

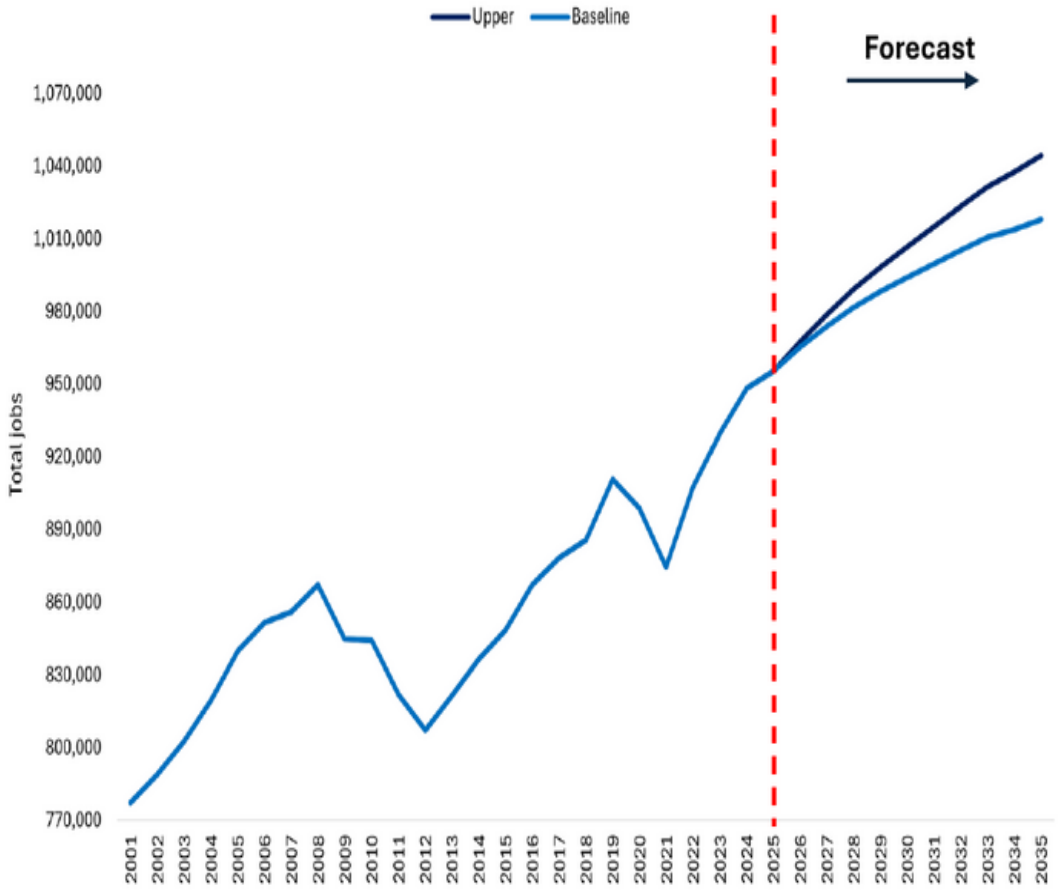
Source: UUEPC

Baseline Vs. Upper Scenario

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Forecast scenarios, NI, 2000-2035 (forecast period 2025-35)



Source: NOMIS & UUEPC

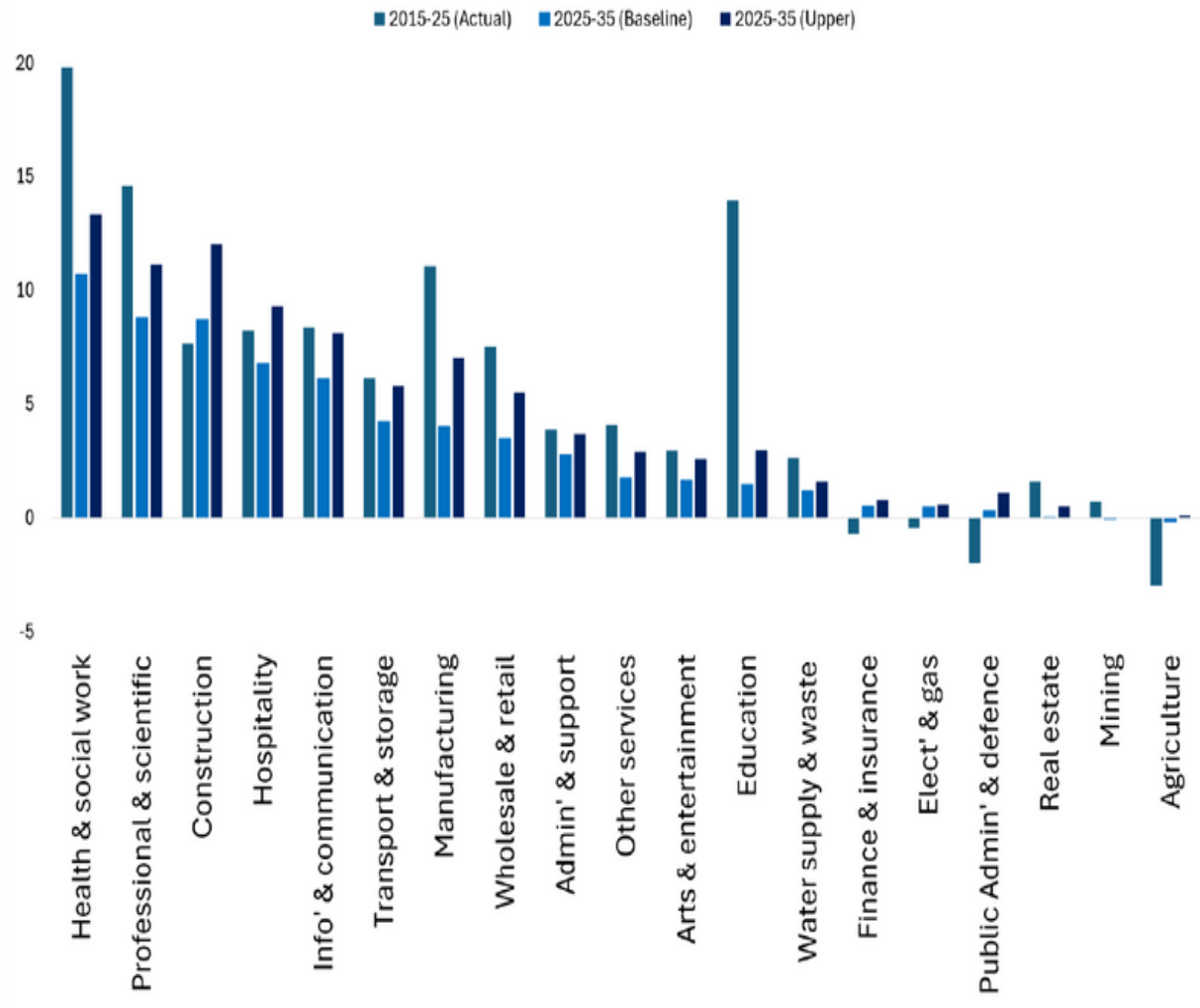
- Under the **Baseline scenario**, the NI employment rate rises by approximately 5 percentage points over the 10-year forecast period.
- The **Upper scenario** forecasts a higher, more aspirational employment rate for Northern Ireland, which factors in policy success in achieving a substantially lower inactivity rate.
- **Baseline + 62,800 jobs (2025 to 2035)**
- **Upper + 89,080 jobs (2025 to 2035)**

Where may jobs be created?

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Sectoral employment actual and UUEPC forecasts (baseline and upper, 000s), 2015-2035



Source: UUEPC

Note: Chart organised by baseline scenario

- Under the **Baseline scenario,** an additional **62.8k jobs** are forecasted for the NI economy by 2035.
- This is driven by:
  - Health and Social Work +10.7k jobs
  - Professional and Scientific +8.8k jobs
  - Construction +8.7k
- Looking at the previous decade (2015-2025) nearly 107k jobs were created in NI despite economic challenges such as the pandemic. This growth was driven by Health and Social Work which accounted for 19% of jobs created, followed by Professional and Scientific Services (14%) and Education (13%).
- In the coming decade, the Education sector is still expected to create jobs, but at a slower rate, reflecting demographic changes, including slower population growth and a declining number of young people. Growth in education employment in recent years has partly reflected a sharp increase in the number of classroom assistants. However, continued growth in these roles may be constrained by ongoing pressures on education budgets, alongside weaker demographic demand.

Macroeconomic variables

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Interest rate forecasts (end of year)

2026	3.75%
2027	3.50%
2028	3.25%
2029	3.25%
2030	3.25%

Source: UUEPC

Inflation forecasts (end of year)

2026	3.1%
2027	1.9%
2028	2.1%
2029	2.0%
2030	2.0%

Source: ONS, OBR

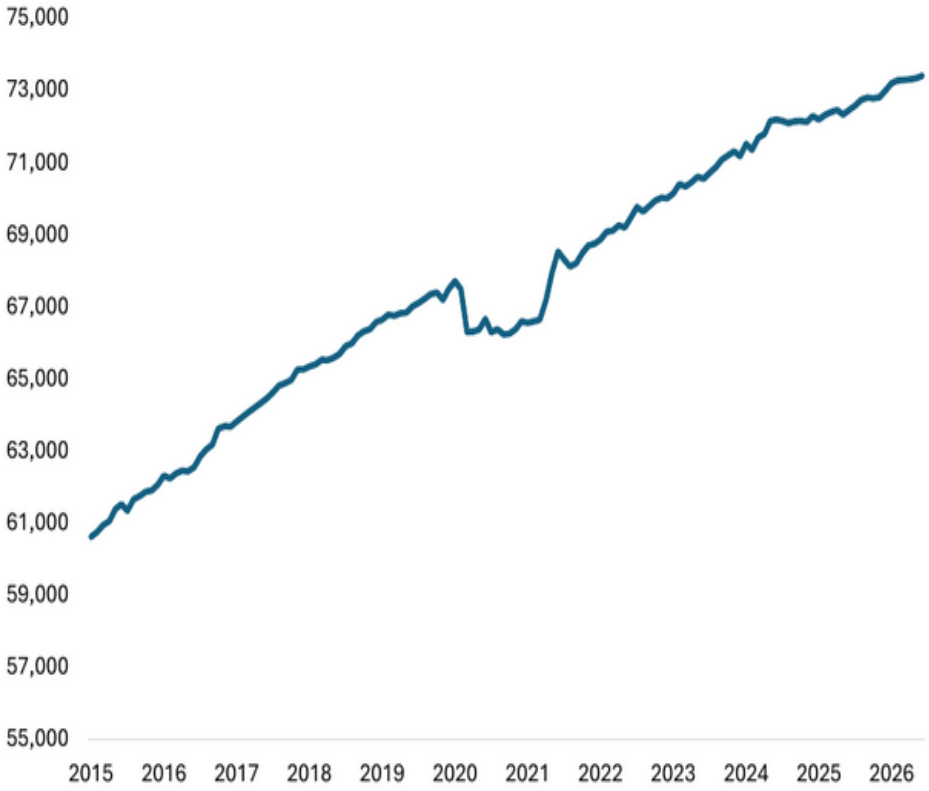
- Macroeconomic variables remain closely linked to developments across the UK. The Bank of England have remained cautious and kept interest rates at 3.75% as they forecast that inflation will rise towards the end of year, despite falling earlier, due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East which has impacted energy prices. The Bank of England's next interest rate announcement is scheduled for 17 September 2026.

Ulster University | Economic Policy Centre

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Recent Performance & Economic Outlook

Employee growth

Payrolled employees, Newry, Mourne & Down, January 2015- July 2026, Seasonally adjusted

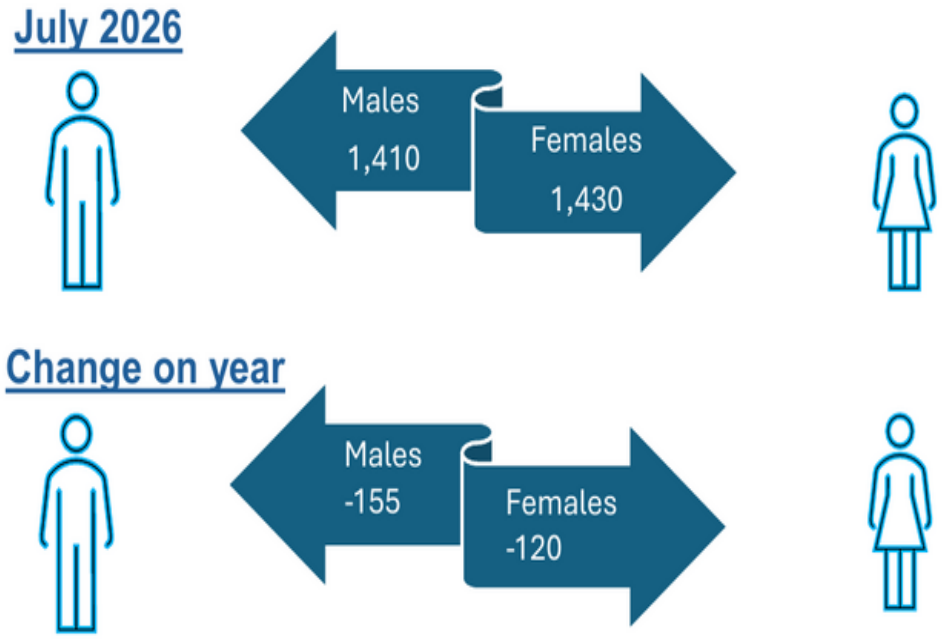


Source: HMRC

- Payrolled employees reached a high of 73,410 in Newry, Mourne & Down in July 2026, a 1.3% increase from the same month in 2025.
- The Council area had an average of 72,520 payrolled employees in 2025. This average was exceeded in the first seven months of 2026 when there was an average of 73,270.

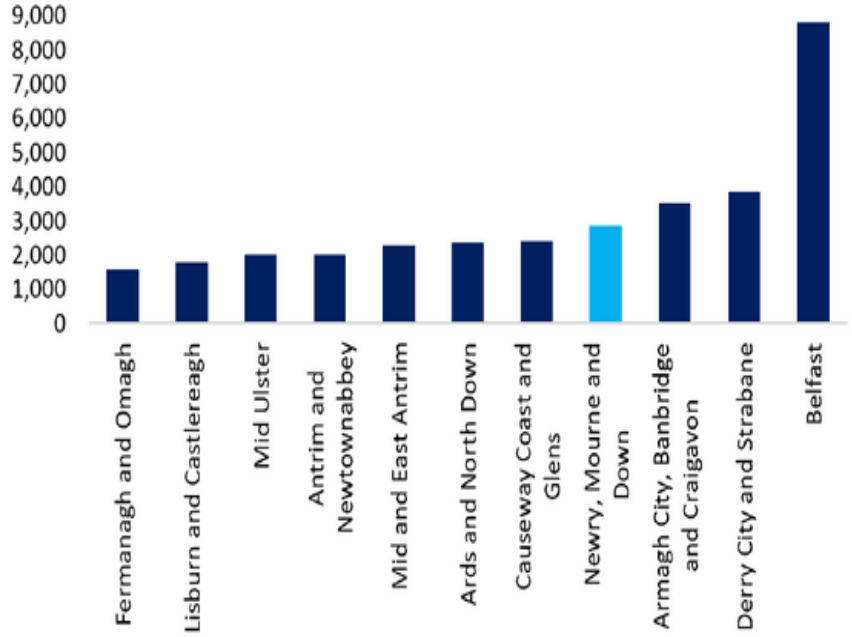
Claimant count

Claimant Count by male and female, Newry, Mourne & Down, January 2026 - July 2026



Source: NISRA

Claimant Count by LGD, July 2026

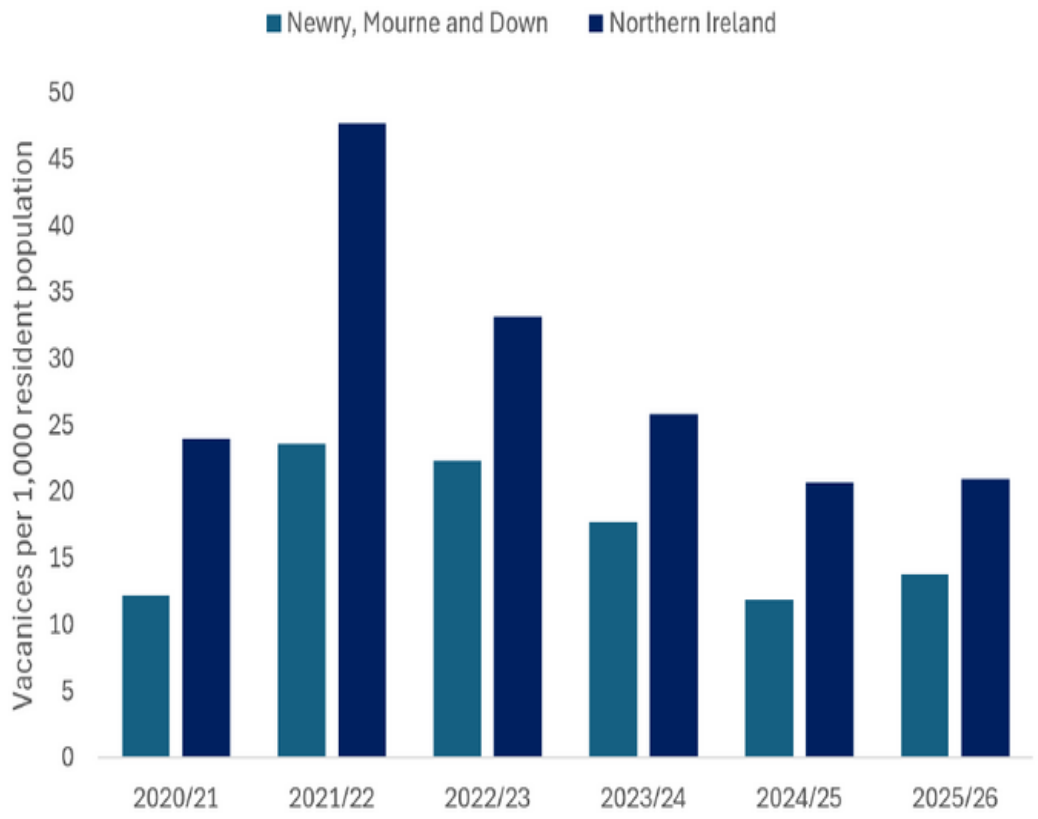


Source: NISRA

- In July 2026, Newry, Mourne & Down's claimant count was 2,840, a reduction of 280 over the yearly period .
- Newry, Mourne & Down's claimant count rate stood at 2.6%, below the NI average of 2.8%, having fallen by 0.3 percentage points over the year.

Job vacancies

Vacancies per 1,000 resident population, Newry, Mourne & Down and NI, 2020/21 – 2025/26



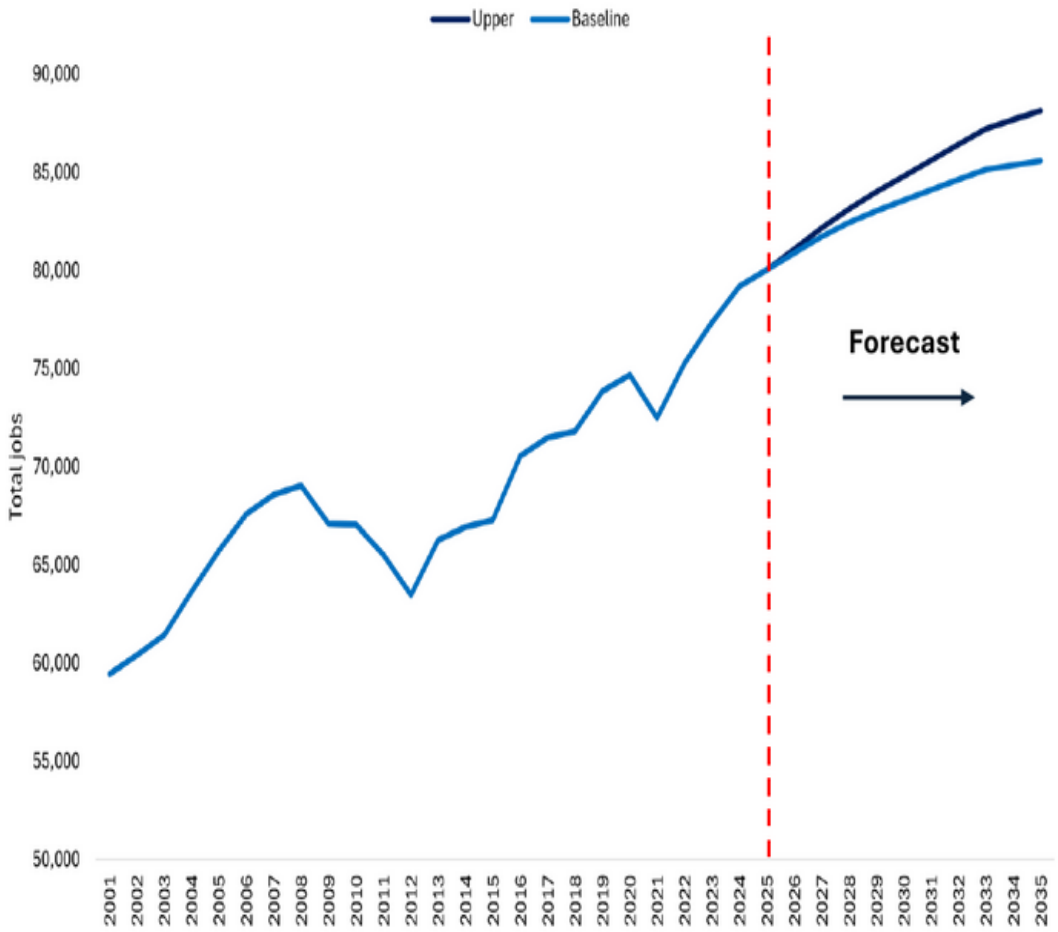
Source: DfC

- Newry, Mourne & Down consistently records a lower concentration of DfC-notified vacancies than NI overall, suggesting comparatively lower levels of recruitment and strong levels of job retention.
- Vacancies increased during the post-Covid reopening in 2021/22, reaching 23.6 per 1,000 residents in Mid & East Antrim. Despite remaining below the NI average that year, the increase likely reflected the rebound in labour demand following the easing of restrictions.
- The increase was less pronounced in Newry, Mourne & Down than across NI, with vacancies per 1,000 residents rising by 94% between 2020/21 and 2021/22, compared with 99% across Northern Ireland.
- Vacancy levels remain comparatively low in Newry, Mourne & Down. In 2025/26, Newry, Mourne & Down recorded 13.8 vacancies per 1,000 residents compared with 20.9 across NI.

Back to Agenda

Job forecasts

Total number of jobs, Newry, Mourne & Down, 2001 - 2035

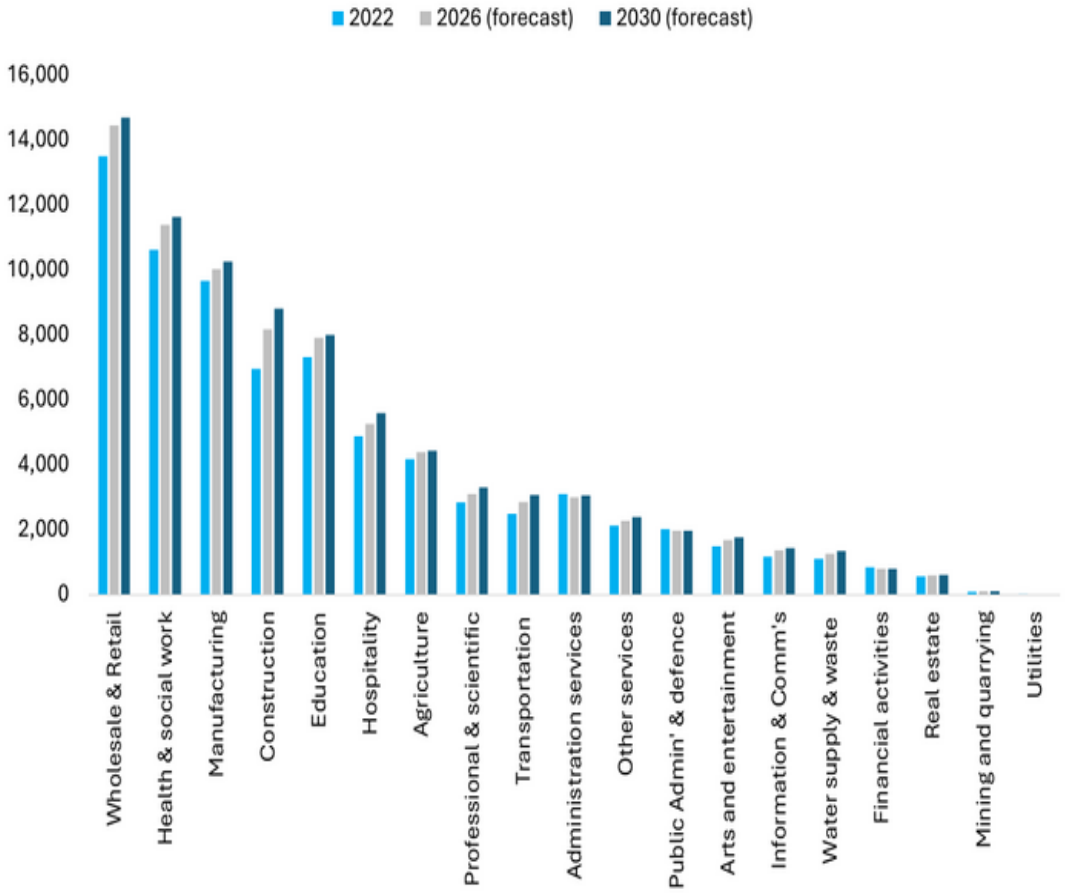


Source: NISRA & UUEPC
Note: 2023 remains a forecast year to due a lag in data

- Under the **baseline scenario**, total employment is forecast to increase by around 5,530 jobs over the next decade, reaching approximately 85,590 by 2035. This represents an average annual growth rate of 0.7%.
- Under the **upper scenario**, employment is projected to expand at a faster annual rate of 1.0%, resulting in around 88,150 jobs by 2035.
- Both scenarios suggest sustained employment growth over the next decade, with employment reaching a new high under either scenario.
- Employment growth in Newry, Mourne & Down is forecast to outpace the NI average under both scenarios, with annual growth of 0.67% vs 0.64% under the baseline and 0.97% vs 0.90% under the upper scenario between 2025 and 2035.

Sectoral growth forecasts

Employment by sector, Newry, Mourne & Down, 2022, 2026 and 2030



Source: NISRA & UUEPC

- Jobs within Newry, Mourne & Down remain concentrated in Wholesale & Retail, Health & Social Work, and Manufacturing.
- Over the 10-year forecast period, the Construction, Hospitality and Manufactuirng sectors are expected to be the major contributors to the baseline jobs growth figure of 5,530, accounting for 45.0% of total growth.
- The sectoral composition of the growth is a reflection Newry, Mourne & Down's broad employment base, with future job growth increasingly driven by Construction and service-based sectors.

Sectoral breakdown- A baseline and upper scenario

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Sectoral employment net change by scenario, Newry, Mourne & Down, 2025 - 2035		
Sector	**Baseline**	**Upper**
Agriculture	-30	20
Mining and quarrying	0	0
Manufacturing	620	1,090
Utilities	10	10
Water supply & waste	170	210
Construction	1,180	1,620
Wholesale & Retail	490	860
Transportation	380	520
Hospitality	690	950
Information & Comm's	290	380
Financial activities	20	30
Real estate	0	30
Professional & scientific	450	560
Administration services	180	240
Public Admin' & defence	10	30
Education	120	210
Health & Social work	610	750
Arts and entertainment	150	240
Other services	200	320
Total	5,530	8,090

- Over the next decade, Construction show the largest increase, with 1,180 additional jobs under the baseline scenario and 1,620 under the upper scenario.
- Hospitality is also projected to expand indicating growing demand for labour market skills compatible with the service sector.
- Health & Social Work is forecast to add 610 jobs in the 10-year forecast period under a baseline scenario. This reflects demographic pressures and ongoing demand for healthcare and social care services.

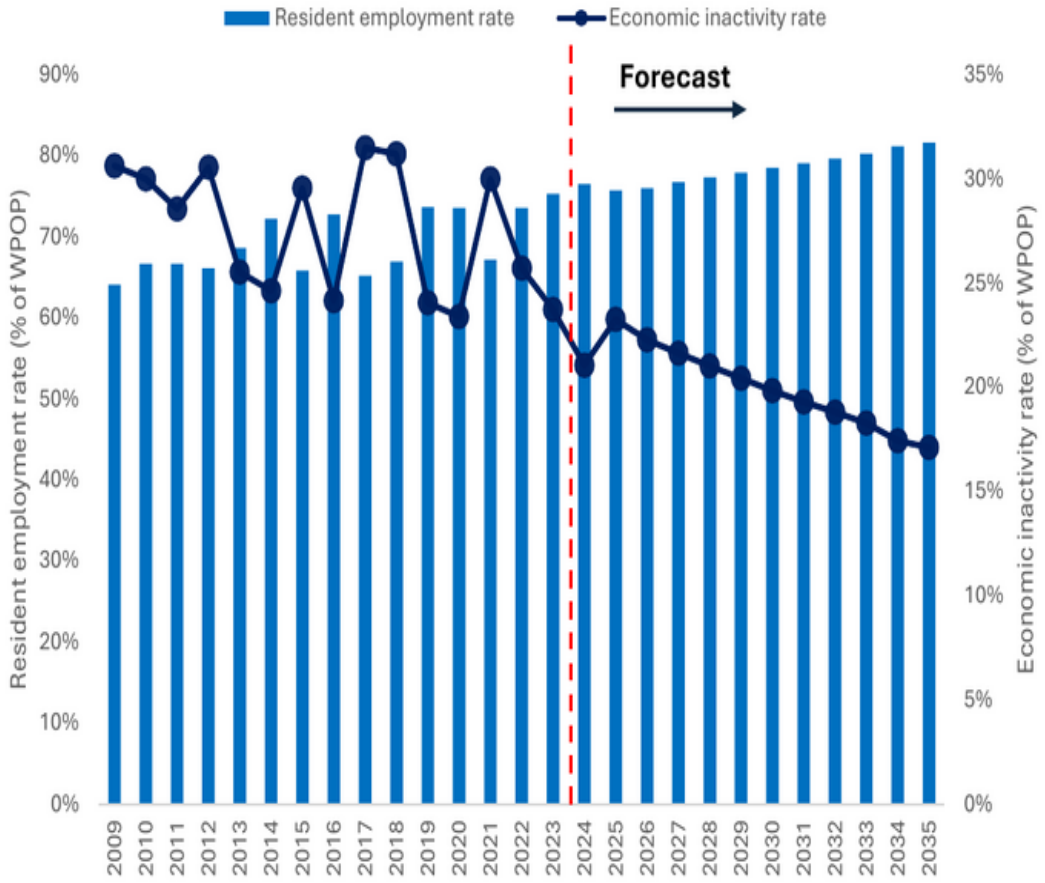
Source: NISRA & UUEPC

Resident employment rate and economic inactivity forecasts

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University
UUEPC
Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Resident employment rate vs economic inactivity rate, Newry, Mourne & Down, 2009 - 2035

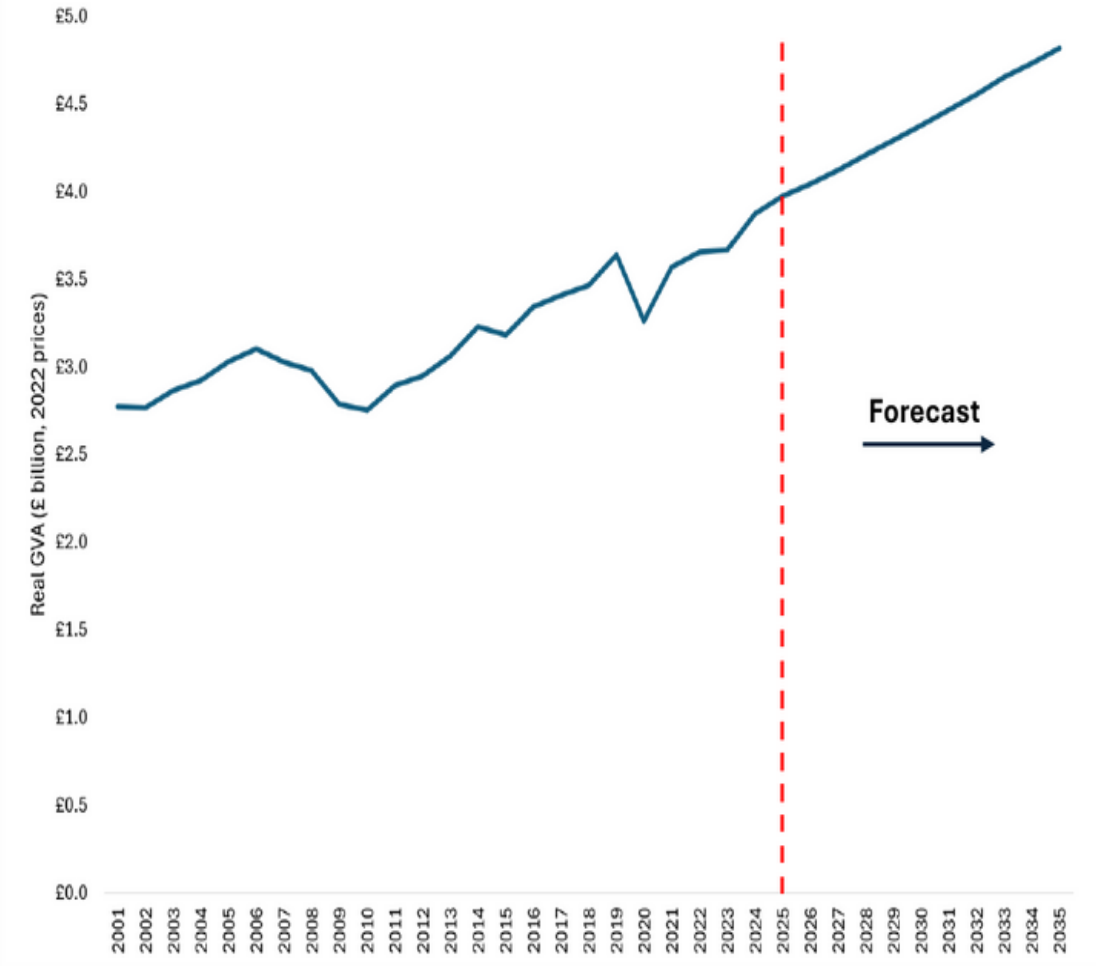


Source: ONS, NISRA & UUEPC
Note: 2023 is the latest year of data

- The resident employment rate is projected to increase steadily over the next decade, increasing by 5.9 percentage points between 2025 and 2035.
- This increase reflects continued employment growth alongside a relatively stable working-age population.
- The economic inactivity rate is also expected to decline further. This is indicative of an expansion of the active labour force as well as an essentially unchanging working-age population.
- However, as employment rates rise and inactivity falls, the pool of available labour is likely to diminish, potentially leading to tighter labour market conditions.

Real GVA forecasts

Real GVA, baseline scenario, £ billion (2022 prices), Newry, Mourne & Down, 2001 - 2035



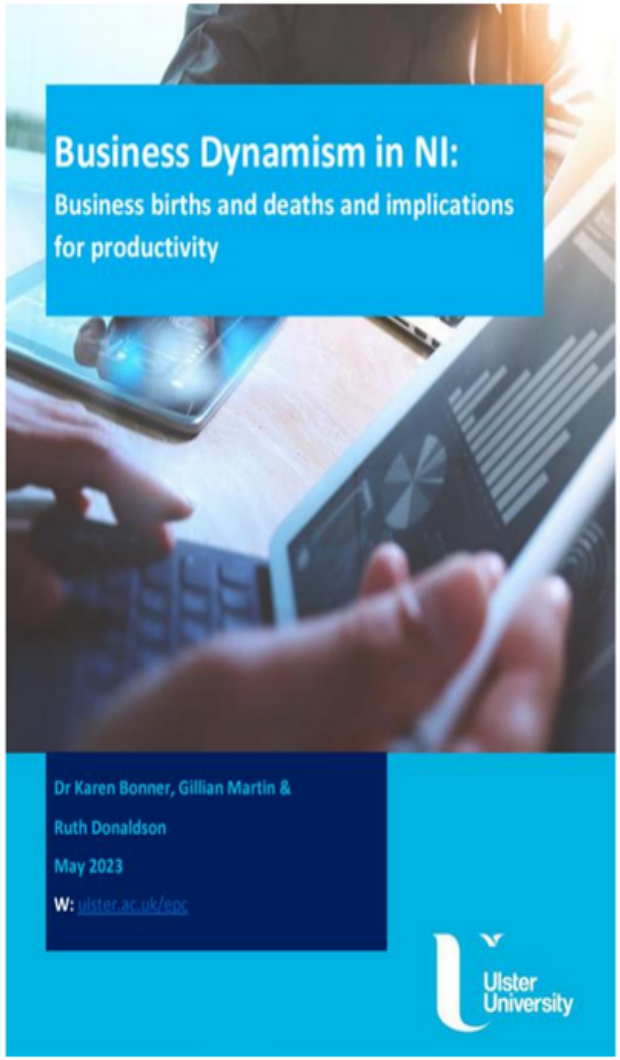
Source: ONS, NISRA & UUEPC
Note: 2023 is the latest year of data

- Over the next decade, Real GVA is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 2.0%, reaching approximately £4.8 billion by 2035.
- This growth is underpinned by forecast annual increases of 0.7% in jobs and 0.9% in productivity.
- In the context of a tight labour market, improving productivity will be increasingly important to support future economic growth.

Ulster University | Economic Policy Centre

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Business Dynamism

Business dynamism



- Business dynamism, in its narrowest sense, reflects the rate at which new firms enter the market and existing firms leave.
- Increasing rates of dynamism, in the form of firm entry and exit, are regarded as an indication of a healthy economy due to their positive impacts on innovation, competition, productivity and job creation.
- A more dynamic economy is therefore viewed as a positive and one which is associated with economic growth through higher rates of innovation and productivity.
- Dynamism can be measured through business churn (business birth rate + death rate), providing an indication of how frequently businesses are created and closed, reflecting the degree of creative destruction (as incumbent firms exit more efficient firms enter with new, innovative practices and products).
- UUEPC's 2023 study on businesses dynamism (available to view here) concluded that NI had a less dynamic economy compared to the rest of the UK. More recent data shows that this continues to be the case.
- This section builds upon this research by exploring dynamism at a local council level with data now available up to 2024 (published 2026).

Business dynamism in Newry, Mourne & Down



Castlewellan Forest Park (image from Discover NI)

- Business births and deaths are an indication of a healthy economy. However, it is important that business births have a higher productivity than deaths therefore supporting 'creative destruction'.
- NI continues to have a less dynamic economy (in terms of business churn- birth rate + death rate) compared to other parts of the UK.
- This analysis shows that Newry, Mourne and Down accounts for 10.3% of births and 13.2% of deaths in 2024 in NI. It is expected that an area with high births also experiencing high deaths.
- Newry, Mourne and Down's birth rate was the fourth lowest at 8.4% in 2024, and the second highest death rate at 8.2% giving the LGD a churn rate of 16.6%, just 0.2 percentage points below the NI average.
- Newry, Mourne and Down sits in the quadrant with 'low productivity, high business birth rates', indicating that high business growth has not yet translated into higher GVA.
- When it comes to business survival, the Council area's one year survival rate has improved by 7 p.p over the time period and the survival rates have increasingly been above the NI average.

Reduction in business births

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

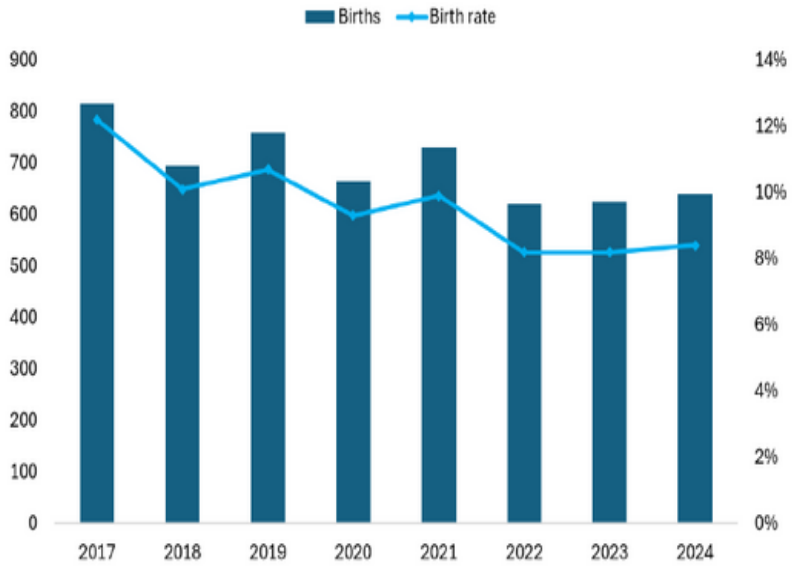
NI LGDs, business births, rates and births as a % of the NI total , 2017-2024

	2017			2024		
	Buiness births	Birth rate	% of NI total	Buiness births	Birth rate	% of NI total
Northern Ireland	6,570	11.1%	-	6,240	9.5%	-
Belfast	1,205	11.3%	18.3%	1,435	12.1%	23.0%
Derry City and Strabane	470	11.3%	7.2%	755	15.1%	12.1%
Newry, Mourne and Down	815	12.2%	12.4%	640	8.4%	10.3%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	725	11.1%	11.0%	635	8.7%	10.2%
Mid Ulster	635	10.5%	9.7%	465	6.8%	7.5%
Fermanagh and Omagh	525	11.2%	8.0%	460	8.8%	7.4%
Ards and North Down	475	10.7%	7.2%	430	9.3%	6.9%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	455	10.4%	6.9%	430	8.9%	6.9%
Mid and East Antrim	395	10.6%	6.0%	350	8.7%	5.6%
Causeway Coast and Glens	510	11.8%	7.8%	340	7.4%	5.4%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	360	10.2%	5.5%	300	8.1%	4.8%

Source: NISRA, IDBR

Note: Table ranked by the 2024 % of the NI total

Newry, Mourne and Down business births and birth rate, 2017-2024



Source: NISRA, IDBR

- Firm entry is defined here as registered business births, that is new registrations (for VAT and/or PAYE) on the Inter-departmental Business Register (IDBR).
- Business births in NI fell from 6,570 in 2017 to 6,240 in 2024. However, the birth rate dropped from 11.1% to 9.5% in the same period.
- In 2017, Newry, Mourne and Down accounted for 12.4% of all business births in NI, by 2024 this had decreased to 10.3% when there were 640 births.
- Newry, Mourne and Down's 2024 birth rate (8.4%%) was on the lower end of the scale across the LGDs and below the NI average of 9.5%, Derry City and Strabane had the highest at 15.1%.

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Increasing business deaths

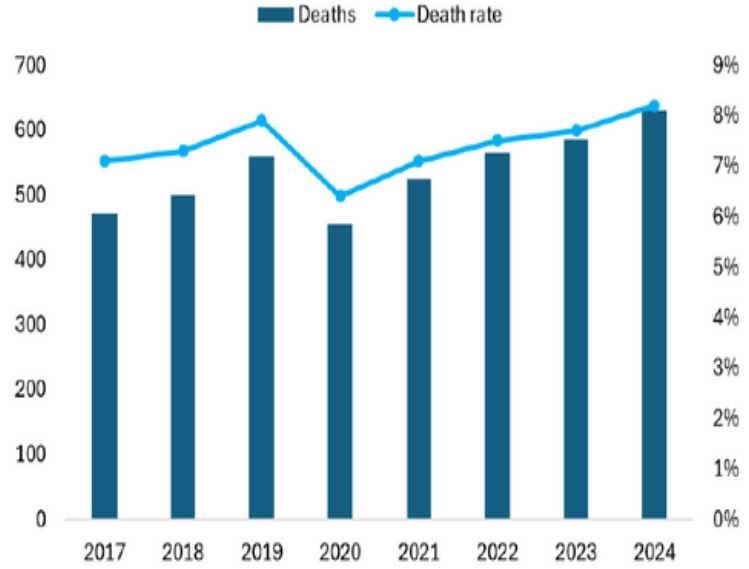
NI LGDs, business deaths, rates and deaths as a % of the NI total, 2017-2024

	2017			2024		
	Buiness deaths	Death rate	% of NI total	Buiness deaths	Death rate	% of NI total
Northern Ireland	**4,255**	**7.2%**	**-**	**4,790**	**7.3%**	**-**
Belfast	845	7.9%	19.9%	920	7.7%	19.2%
Newry, Mourne and Down	470	7.1%	11.0%	630	8.2%	13.2%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	450	6.9%	10.6%	530	7.2%	11.1%
Derry City and Strabane	330	7.9%	7.8%	495	9.9%	10.3%
Mid Ulster	330	5.4%	7.8%	370	5.4%	7.7%
Ards and North Down	345	7.8%	8.1%	365	7.9%	7.6%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	320	7.3%	7.5%	355	7.4%	7.4%
Mid and East Antrim	260	7.0%	6.1%	305	7.6%	6.4%
Causeway Coast and Glens	290	6.7%	6.8%	290	6.3%	6.1%
Fermanagh and Omagh	355	7.6%	8.3%	270	5.2%	5.6%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	260	7.4%	6.1%	260	7.0%	5.4%

Source: NISRA, IDBR

Note: Table ranked by the 2024 % of the NI total

Newry, Mourne and Down business deaths and death rate, 2017-2024



Source: NISRA, IDBR

- Firm exit, defined as a business death, occurs when a business that was previously active on the IDBR is no longer present.
- NI's business deaths rose to 4,790 in 2024, from 4,255 in 2017- a 13% increase. The majority (19.2%) of deaths were in Belfast in 2024, followed by Newry, Mourne and Down at 13.2%.
- Newry, Mourne and Down's death rate increased to 8.2% in 2024, from 7.1% in 2017. The 2024 death rate is the second highest across the LGDs, Derry and Strabane had the highest death rate.

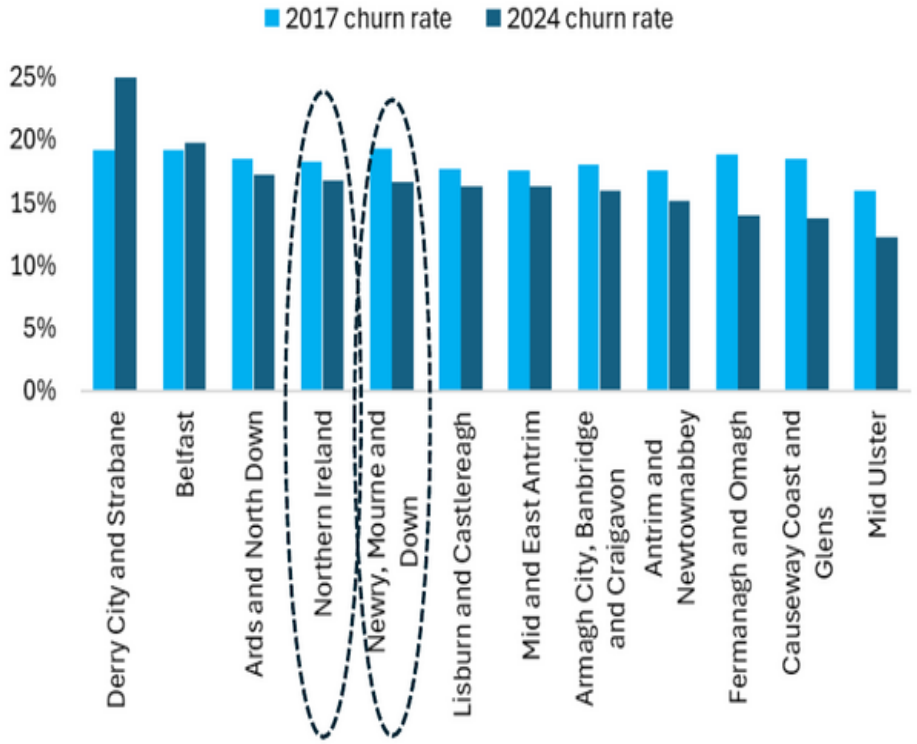
Business churn

Birth rate + Death rate = Churn rate

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

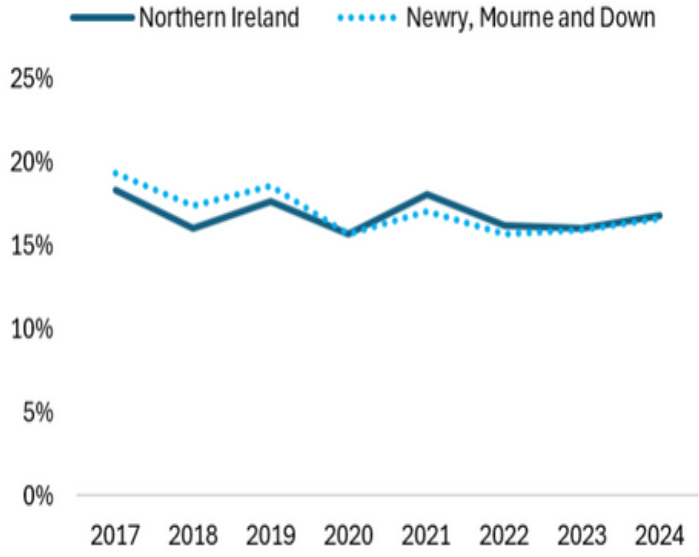
Churn rates, NI & LGDs, 2017 - 2024



Source: NISRA, IDBR

- Churn provides an indication of how frequently businesses are created and closed, reflecting the degree of creative destruction. An area that has a high number of business births is also anticipated to have a higher number deaths. However, when an area has a combination of low birth and death rates it indicates a less dynamic economy in terms of business churn.
- Three LGDs fall above the NI average, Derry City and Strabane, Belfast and Ards and North Down, showing the variation of churn across the region and a skew towards a less dynamic economy.

Churn rates, NI & Newry, Mourne and Down, 2017 - 2024



Source: NISRA, IDBR

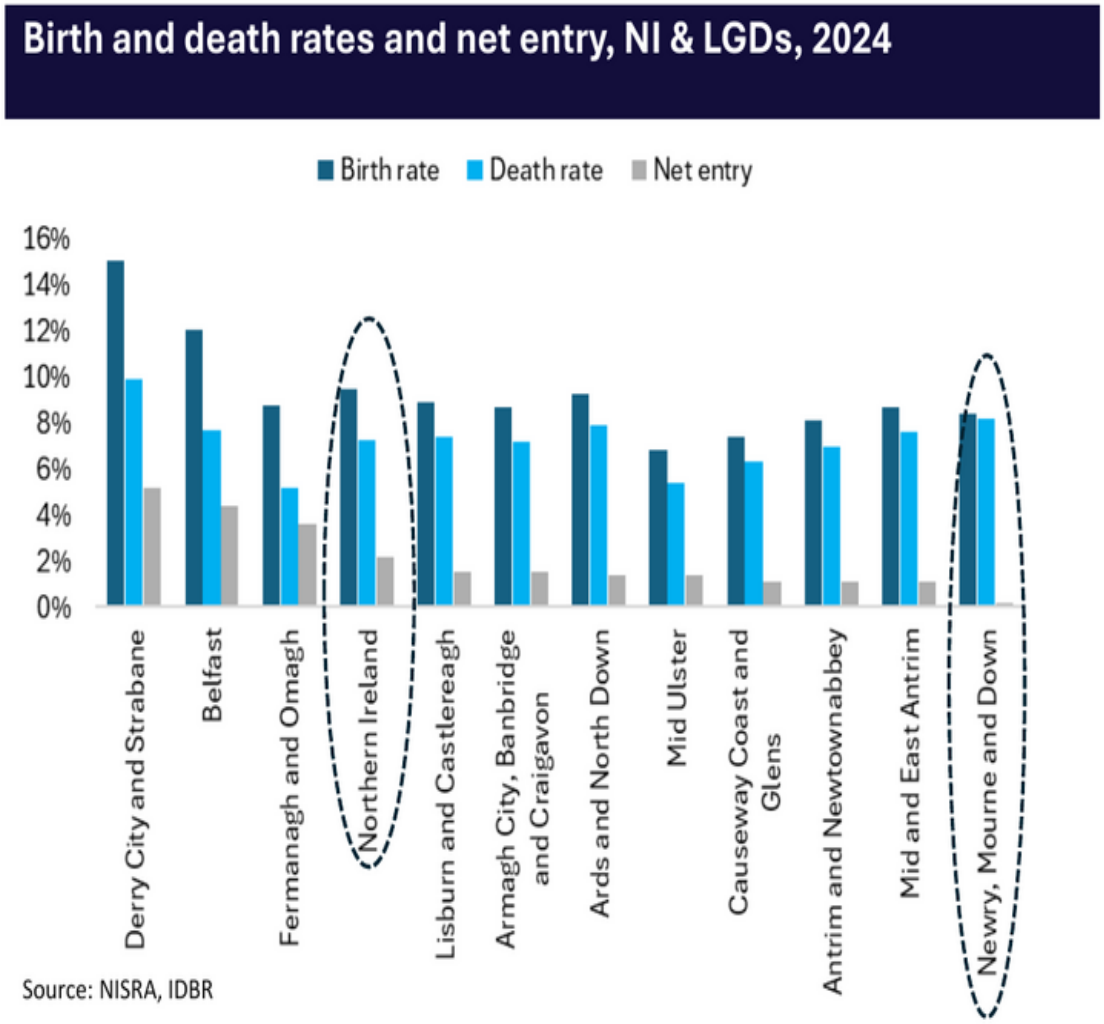
- Newry, Mourne and Down's 2024 churn rate was 16.6%, whilst the NI average was 16.8% . Overall, the council area has followed the same churn trend as the wider NI economy.

Business churn- net entry

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre





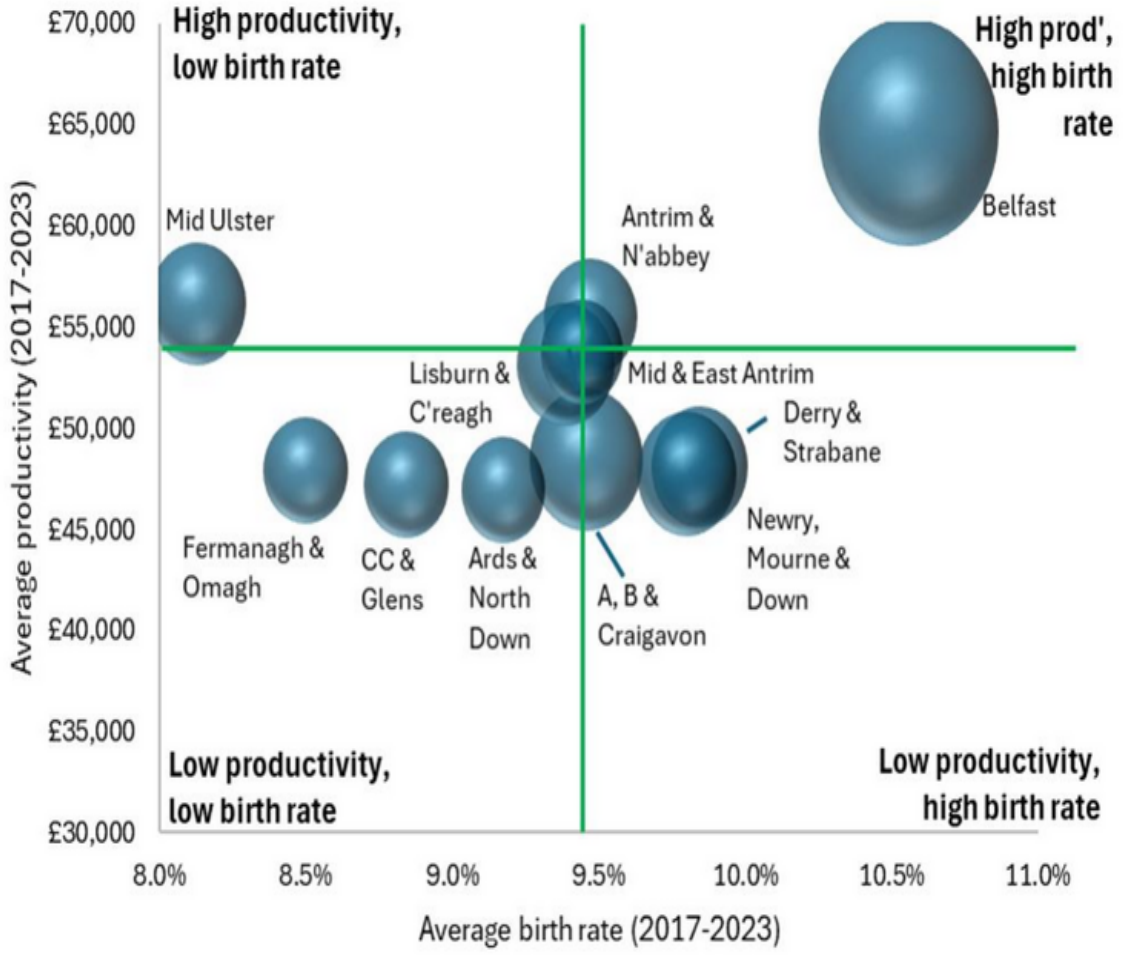
- The components of churn can also be analysed in terms of net entry. This enables an assessment of the extent to which churn is being driven more by an excess of births over deaths or vice versa.
- Positively, all LGDs experienced more births than deaths in 2024- giving a positive net entry.
- Newry, Mourne and Down had a birth rate of 8.4% and a death rate of 8.2% giving it a small positive net entry- the lowest across the LGDs.
- Negative net entry, a greater number of deaths than births, has occurred previously, including at a NI level from 2010-2013.

Productivity link

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ulster University UUEPC Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Birth rate versus productivity by LGD, 2017-2023 (size of the bubbles denotes the 2023 employment size within each LGD)



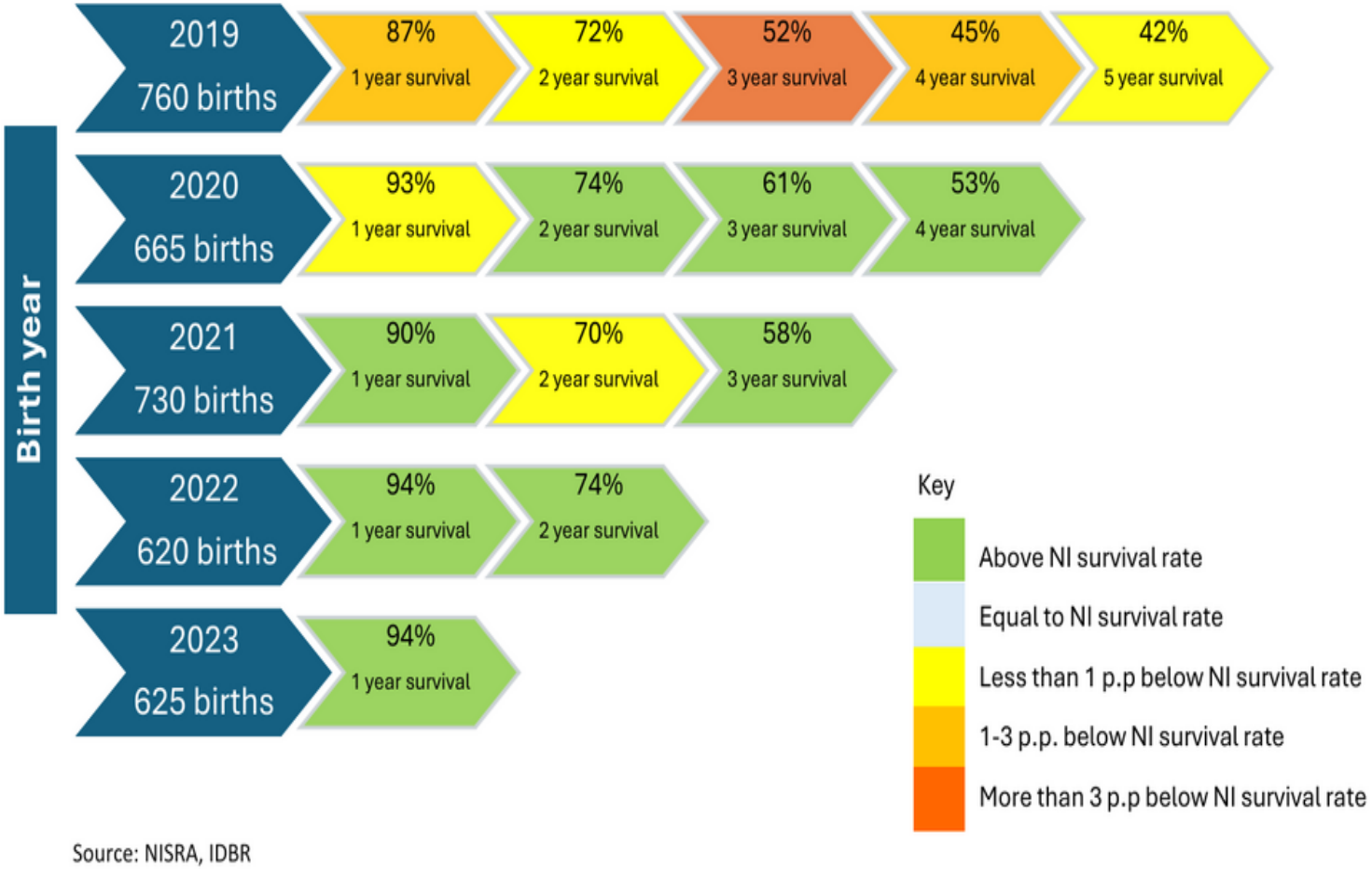
Source: NISRA, IDBR, UUEPC

Note: Chart presents data up to 2023 due to the availability of productivity data. Productivity measure is GVA per job. The green lines represents the NI average birth rate and productivity.

- Theory suggests that more productive firms enter the market, replacing unproductive exiters.
- However, for NI, UUEPC's research found that there is often little difference in the productivity between firms entering and exiting as in a number of sectors the productivity levels of business deaths exceeded that of births.
- To analyse this at a local level, GVA per job across the LGDs has been used to help assess the extent to which business births are in higher or lower productivity areas.
- In the chart, the top right-hand quadrant represents the ideal scenario (high productivity, high birth rate).
- Newry, Mourne and Down lies within the 'Low productivity, high birth rate' category from 2017-2023 alongside Derry and Strabane. However, the most recent data suggests the birth rate has fallen below the NI average.

Survival rates

Business survival rates, Newry, Mourne and Down, 2019-2023



Source: NISRA, IDBR

- A business is deemed to have survived if having been a birth in year t or having survived to year t, it is active in terms of employment and/or turnover in any part of t+1. For example, in 2019 of the 760 business births in Newry, Mourne and Down, only 320 remained 5 years later as there was a survival rate of 42%.
- Positively, Newry, Mourne & Down often has a business survival rate above the NI average (green shading).
- The 1-year survival rate for the council area has improved from 87% to 94% over the time period shown.
- Newry, Mourne & Down came in 6th place in terms of the 5-year survival rate across the LGDs. Mid Ulster had the top - year survival rate (of business born in 2019) at 54.5%.

Back to Agenda

Ulster University | Economic Policy Centre

Concluding Points

To conclude



- Newry, Mourne & Down is forecast to add around 5,500 jobs by 2035, driven particularly by growth in Construction, Hospitality and Health & Social Care.
- The resident employment rate is projected to increase by around 7 percentage points. However, the scale of this increase partly reflects a projected decline in the working-age population, which will place increasing pressure on the available labour supply.
- While Newry, Mourne & Down has a churn rate close to the NI average, this reflects a relatively high rate of business deaths alongside a comparatively low business birth rate.
- The Council area has historically had an above-average business birth rate, but this has fallen below the NI average in recent years. Combined with below-average productivity, this highlights the importance of maintaining business creation while supporting firms to improve productivity and scale.
- Business survival has strengthened in recent years, with the one-year survival rate increasing by 7 percentage points and survival rates increasingly above the Northern Ireland average. This provides a positive foundation for converting business creation into longer-term economic growth.
- Overall, Newry, Mourne & Down has positive employment prospects and an improving business environment, but raising productivity and supporting the growth and survival of businesses will be important to translating this dynamism into higher-value economic activity.

Ulster University | Economic Policy Centre

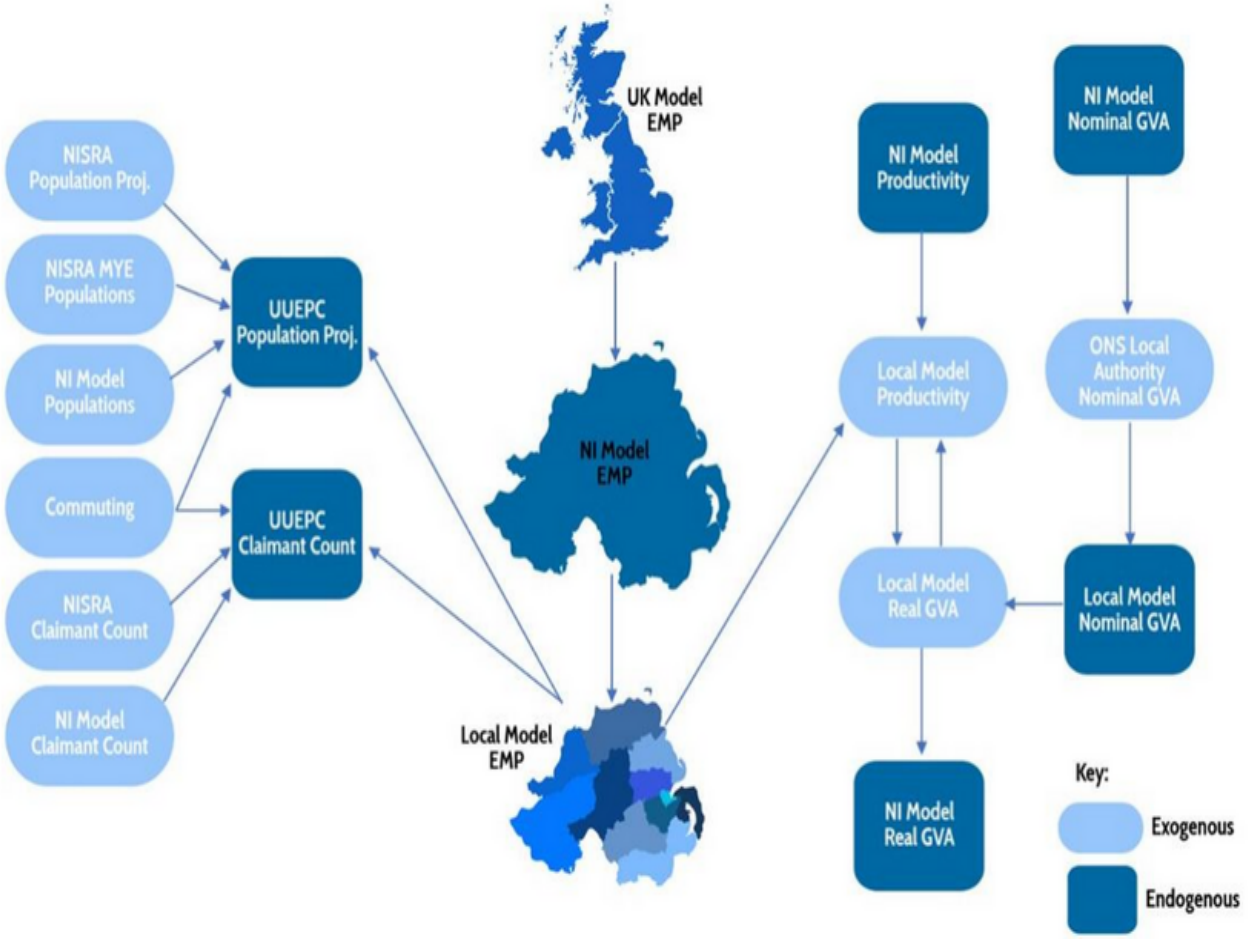
Glossary

Use of forecasts

- Forecasts are useful to help councils guide any future potential policy direction / decisions, in areas such as;
  - Planning;
  - Economic development; and
  - Public facilities management.
- But, forecasts are conditional on a range of underlying factors, in particular;
  - Historical / Past trends;
  - The policy environment; and
  - The current economic environment (Locally, Nationally & Globally).
- These underlying factors are major determinants of future performance as they reflect the relative competitiveness of an area / sector in the present and into the future
- The UUEPC's local forecasts presented in this slide deck are calculated using a top-down approach – i.e. UK forecasts allocated to the UK Regions (i.e. NI) & these NI forecasts are then allocated to each of the 11 council areas
- The forecasts presented do not consider local initiatives or strategies that have yet to be approved (i.e. current policy framework remains unchanged)

Forecasts and their construction

UUEPC Suite of Economic Forecast Models



Source: UUEPC Local model Forecasts

Glossary

- Workplace based Employment -The number of people employed by location of work
- Resident based Employment -The number of people employed by location of residency
- Real GVA -The measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy. Real value is the nominal value adjusted for inflation and is obtained by removing the effect if price level changes from the nominal value of time-series data
- Productivity -Measures how efficiently production inputs are being used in an economy to produce a given level of output. Productivity within the UUEPC Model is derived from total GVA divided by the number of people employed
- CAGR (%) -The compound annual growth rate (CAGR) is the mean annual growth rate of an over a specified period of time longer than one year.
- Labour Force -Those people who are at the working age (16-64) and are able and willing to work.
- Working Age Population -Those aged between 16 and 64.
- ILO Unemployment Rate (%)- The rate of those who are: out of work, want a job, have actively sought work in the previous four weeks and are available to start work within the next fortnight changes from one year to the next.
- Employment Rate (%) - Percentage of all working age (16 to 64) people who are employed. Differences in the underlying population used in the model and assumptions used to convert jobs to people mean that the resulting estimates may not align with official LFS figures at the LGD level.
- Economic Inactivity Rate (%) -The rate of those within the working age population who are not in employment, nor actively seeking employment from one year to the next. As above, the estimates may not align with official LFS figures.

Ulster University | Economic Policy Centre

Contact

Dr Myles Patton

Principal Economist

Email: m.patton@ulster.ac.uk

Telephone: 02895 367 941

Gillian Martin

Senior Economist

Email: g.mccausland@ulster.ac.uk

Telephone: 02890 367 135

Todd Gowdy

Assistant Economist

Email: t.gowdy@ulster.ac.uk

Telephone: 02895 365 507

Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

UUEPC OUTLOOK

July 2026

Ulster University

Labour Market Strength Underpins Economic Growth

Northern Ireland's (NI) labour market has continued to perform strongly over the past year. Workforce jobs increased at the fastest annual rate of any UK region between Q1 2025 and Q1 2026, while employment contracted in nine of the twelve UK regions. This reflects continued expansion in public sector employment, alongside sustained growth across parts of the private sector.

Private services have made an important contribution to growth. While Wholesale and Retail employment has declined across much of Great Britain since the pandemic, NI has continued to record employment growth in the sector. This suggests that the structural changes affecting the retail sector have been less pronounced in NI than elsewhere in the UK, although some moderation in employment growth is likely as these adjustments continue.

Looking ahead, job growth is expected to continue in the near term, supported by ongoing demand for Health and Social Care services and continued activity across private services. However, the pace of growth is expected to ease gradually, with employment growth increasingly aligning with broader UK trends over the longer term. Current projections indicate that the number of workforce jobs in NI will exceed one million by 2032.

The wider economic outlook remains closely linked to developments across the UK economy. Expectations for further interest rate reductions have been delayed as inflation has remained higher than expected, partly due to higher energy prices earlier in the year. More recently, however, energy prices have stabilised and concerns that geopolitical tensions will lead to prolonged inflation have eased. As a result, financial markets increasingly expect interest rates to continue falling gradually over the medium term. Lower borrowing costs should support household spending, business investment and housing activity, creating a more favourable environment for economic growth in both NI and the UK.

Key Forecasts

	Northern Ireland (NI)				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
GVA (1) Growth Rate	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
Jobs Growth	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%
Productivity (2)	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%
Employment Rate (% of working people, 16-64)	71.8%	72.5%	73.0%	73.6%	74.1%
	United Kingdom (UK)				
GVA (1) Growth Rate	1.0%	1.4%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%
Jobs Growth	-0.2%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
	Macroeconomic Variables				
Interest Rates (end of year)	3.75%	3.50%	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%
Inflation (end of year)	3.1%	1.9%	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%

Source: UUEPC, OBR
Note 1: Gross Value Added (GVA) is the preferred measure of economic activity. It is similar to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but excludes the impact of taxes and subsidies (most notably VAT).
Notes 2: Productivity measured as GVA per worker

Sectoral Forecasts

Manufacturing

Manufacturing continued to experience a decline in jobs in Q1 2026, with the vast majority of these losses occurring among the self employed. In contrast, employee jobs have remained relatively resilient, although performance varied across sub sectors [1]. For example, there was a notable reduction within the manufacture of other transport equipment, while food production recorded growth for a second consecutive quarter.

Food production continues to be a key component of the NI economy, accounting for around a quarter of manufacturing employee jobs, compared with approximately 17% in GB [2]. Employee job growth has also continued in the manufacture of fabricated metal products (except machinery and equipment), which remains the second largest manufacturing sub sector.

Construction

Construction began 2026 with strong momentum, increasing workforce jobs by 1.2% in the first quarter. This follows a strong performance in 2025, when the Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index [3] indicated that construction contributed 0.9 percentage points (p.p) to overall annual economic growth.

Looking ahead, the sector is expected to benefit from the programme of investment associated with the City and Growth Deals, which will drive substantial public capital expenditure over the coming decade with the potential to attract further private sector investment. Ensuring a sufficient pipeline of skilled workers will be critical to the successful delivery of these projects and to maximising the opportunities for further investment.

Public Sector Services

Population projections produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency [4] (NISRA) indicate significant demographic change lies ahead, with the number of children and young people expected to decline while the older population is projected to increase significantly. These shifts are likely to have important implications for both the Health and Education sectors, requiring proactive planning to ensure services and workforce capacity align with changing patterns of demand. However, the continued absence of a multi year budget from the NI Executive limits the ability of departments to undertake effective long term financial and workforce planning.

Within Education, the workforce has not only grown but also changed considerably in recent years. Research by UU [5] indicates that the number of classroom assistants increased by approximately 63% between 2018 and 2024. This substantial growth has been attributed to the need to support pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) [7] across both mainstream and special schools.

At the same time, pupil numbers have begun to decline [6], reflecting the demographic changes already beginning to emerge, particularly through reductions in pre school and primary school enrolments. Continued workforce planning will therefore be essential to ensure that staffing levels and skills remain aligned with the evolving needs of pupils and the education system more broadly.

[1] NISRA, 2026, Quarterly Employment Survey
[2] 2024 (latest year available), Business Register and Employment Survey
[3] Q1 2025 Q1 2026, NISRA, 2026, NICEI
[4] NISRA, 2026, 2024 based Population Projections for Northern Ireland
[5] O Connor, U., Courtney, C., Montgomery, A., & Curran, C. (2024, Dec 19). A profile of Classroom Assistants in Northern Ireland. Ulster University

Private sector

Despite ongoing local and global economic challenges, Northern Ireland's private sector has remained resilient. The Quarterly Index of Services [8] reported a 0.9% increase in output during Q1 2026. Growth was strongest within the Business Services and Finance sector, which expanded by 4.1%, while Wholesale and Retail Trade and Accommodation and Food Services recorded a modest decline in output of 0.3%.

Despite this reduction in output, and the continued growth of e commerce, workforce jobs within Wholesale and Retail continued to increase. At a sub sector level, Wholesale Trade (excluding motor vehicles and motorcycles) recorded a 5.6% increase in employee jobs in Q1 2026, while Retail Trade, the largest employer within the sector, also experienced growth, albeit at a lower rate of 0.5% [9]. Recent footfall data [10] indicates that retail parks continue to attract strong levels of consumer activity and so despite evolving shopping habits and wider economic pressures, demand for in person retail experiences remains robust.

Sectoral Employment Actual and UUEPC Forecast (000's)

Industry	2015-25	2025-35 (Baseline)	2025-35 (Upper)
Agriculture	-2.9	-0.2	0.1
Mining	0.7	0.0	0
Manufacturing	11.0	4.0	7
Elect' & gas	-0.4	0.5	0.6
Water supply & waste	2.7	1.2	1.6
Construction	7.7	8.7	12
Wholesale & retail	7.5	3.5	5.5
Transport & storage	6.1	4.2	5.8
Hospitality	8.2	6.8	9.3
Info' & communication	8.4	6.1	8.1
Finance & insurance	-0.7	0.5	0.8
Real estate	1.6	0.0	0.5
Professional & scientific	14.6	8.8	11.1
Admin' & support	3.9	2.8	3.7
Public Admin' & defence	-2.0	0.3	1.1
Education	14.0	1.5	3
Health & social work	19.8	10.7	13.3
Arts & entertainment	3.0	1.7	2.6
Other services	4.1	1.8	2.9
Total	**106.9**	**62.8**	**89.1**

Forecasting

UUEPC's inhouse economic forecasting model is used to produce two economic scenarios (Baseline and Upper) for the NI economy across a range of indicators.

Under the Baseline, the NI employment rate rises by approximately 5 percentage points over the 10 year forecast period. This increase is driven by both higher employment and demographic change, as population ageing means the working age population grows more slowly than total employment.

The Upper scenario forecasts a higher, more aspirational employment rate for NI, which factors in policy success in achieving a substantially lower inactivity rate.

[6] NISRA, 2026, Post primary enrolments have fallen for the first time since 2016/17
[7] Ibid.
[8] NISRA, 2026, Northern Ireland Quarterly Index of Services
[9] NISRA, 2026, Quarterly Employment Survey
[10] ONS, 2026, UK Retail Footfall

Retaining Talent and Reducing Costs in Social Care

While some employee departures are preventable, many exits may be induced due to burnout, pay or organisational change. The departure of experienced staff leads to the loss of valuable knowledge and expertise. It is therefore important that employers monitor staff turnover to determine both the financial and non-financial costs on remaining staff and service users.

Colleagues from across UU conducted research to examine social worker turnover [11], including estimating the associated fiscal costs. Persistently high turnover rates for this workforce can negatively affect service delivery and increase caseload pressures for remaining staff; impacting their wellbeing and that of service users who are already some of our the most vulnerable children and families in society.

What the research found

Data from the NI Health and Social Care (HSC) Workforce Census [12] highlighted that in 2024/25 5,200 employees left their workforce, equating to a turnover rate of 7.0%. This represents a slight decrease from the previous year, however the number of leavers and leaving rate remained elevated.

Notably, the turnover rate fell to a low of 5.6% in 2020/21, when 3,790 staff left the workforce. This likely reflected employees' increased tendency to remain in their roles during the pandemic.

Figure 1: Turnover (leavers and rate, headcount) within the HSC workforce, NI, 2018-2025



Source: HSC Workforce Census
Note: The analysis was conducted on 2024/25 period

When broken down by staff group (Figure 2), registered nursing and midwifery had the highest number of leavers in 2024/25 at just over 1,200, representing a leaving rate of 6.1%, the fifth highest rate.

Meanwhile, social services recorded just over 620 leavers in 2024/25, corresponding to a leaving rate of 6.6%, making it the third-highest.

The analysis focused on estimating the cost of turnover for Child/Family Care Social Workers [13] who accounted for 44% of the 4,910 Social Workers in the Trusts [14]. Applying the 2024/25 social services leaving rate to the Child/Family Care Social Workers suggests that just over 140 staff left during this period.

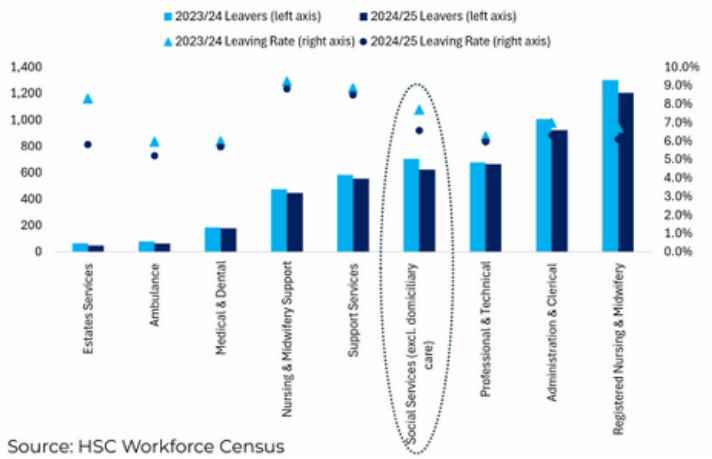
To estimate the financial impact of this turnover the research calculated the costs associated with hiring, training, learning and development and productivity losses while vacancies remain unfilled. Based on these factors, the total cost was estimated at £49,836 per employee [15].

Based on the cost per employee, along with the number of lost employees, it is estimated that the financial burden of Child/Family Care Social Worker turnover in 2024/25 was £7.13 million [16].

It follows that reducing the number of Social Workers leaving by20% would save £1.43 million. This amount could fund the employment of around 42 Band 5/6 Social Workers [17].

Given that the leaving rate fluctuates annually, if we performed this calculation using the 2023/24 headcount (2,145) and leaving rate (7.7%) the cost is estimated to be over £8.23 million. This highlights the financial impact of the leaving rate and how costs can fluctuate annually based on turnover changes.

Figure 2: Turnover (leavers and rate, headcount) by staff group, NI, 2023-2025



Source: HSC Workforce Census

The wider costs of turnover

The research suggested that these results are conservative as they do not capture wider system impacts such as increased caseload pressures, service disruption, delayed interventions, or the longer-term effects on staff wellbeing and service-user outcomes. The true cost of social worker turnover is therefore broader than the financial estimates outlined in this research.

Why retention matters

This analysis demonstrates that staff turnover represents a significant and measurable financial burden for organisations such as NI's HSC Trusts. These figures highlight that turnover is not solely a workforce issue, but a material fiscal pressure on the public and private sector.

From a workforce planning perspective it would be benifical for organisations to aim for a low and steady leaving rate to manage budgets and staffing. This requires proactive strategic investment in retention, professional development, wellbeing, and workforce planning. These investments should not be viewed as discretionary spending, but rather as a mechanism to safeguard finances, maintain service continuity, and protect outcomes for customers – in this case vulnerable children and families. Addressing turnover is therefore central to ensuring the long-term sustainability of public and private sectors alike.

[11]Conducted by Mcfadden, P., MacLochlainn, J., et al., funded by the HSC Public R&D Division. The results presented are the views of the author and not the funder.
[12]Department of Health. (2025). NI HSC workforce census March 2025.
[13] The original research focused on this cohort of social workers.
[14] Department of Health, 2025
[15] Sum of hiring costs (£1,000 CIPD, 2024) + training and onboarding (£2,229 Skills for Care, 2019) + ongoing learning and development (Social Workers are required to do an Assessed Year in Employment (75 hours) £1,295 based on Band 5-6 salary, & Professional in Practice average cost £3,773) + productivity for HSC sector (£41,539, UUEPC Model, 2023 -latest year of GVA data)
[16] Ibid.
[17]This study focused on newly qualified Social Workers in their first 5 years and so these staff would fall within Pay Bands 5-6

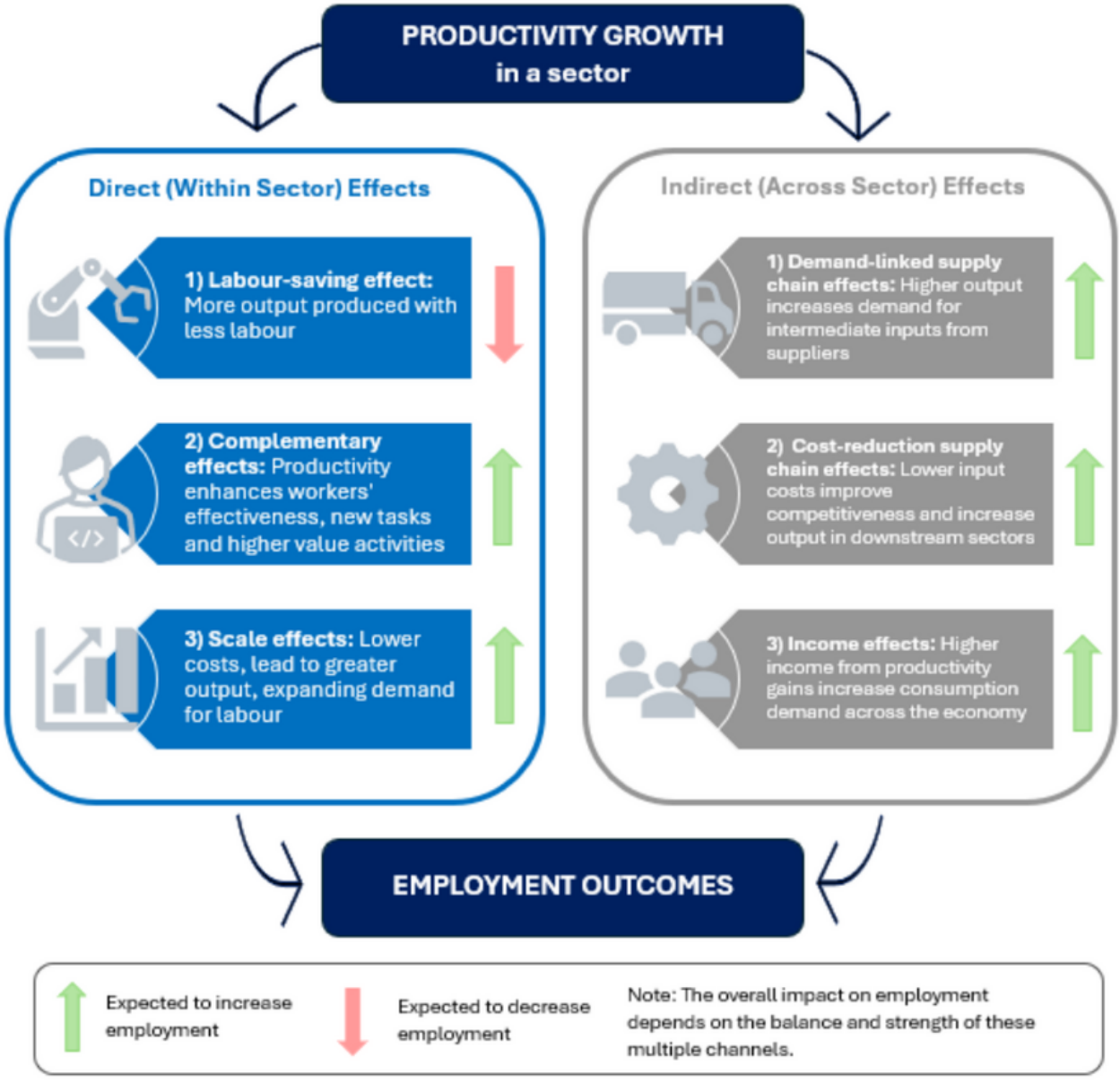
Productivity Growth and Jobs: Looking Beyond the Jobs-versus-Productivity Debate

Productivity growth is widely recognised as a key driver of long run economic prosperity. Higher productivity allows firms to produce more output from a given set of resources, supporting higher incomes, improved competitiveness and stronger economic growth. At the same time, concerns often arise that productivity enhancing technologies may lead to job losses. These concerns have become even more prominent with the rapid development of digital technologies, robotics and, more recently, artificial intelligence (AI).

The relationship between productivity growth and employment is therefore an important policy issue. While productivity improvements can reduce labour demand within particular industries, they can also generate wider economic benefits that support employment creation elsewhere. The overall employment impact depends on the balance between these competing forces.

Recent UUEPC analysis, using data covering UK regions and industries over the period 1998–2023, provides insights on how productivity growth affects employment [18]. The analysis distinguishes between direct effects operating within industries and indirect effects arising through wider economic spillovers. As illustrated in Figure 3, productivity growth can influence employment through a range of channels, including labour saving, complementary and scale effects within industries, alongside broader spillovers operating through supply chain linkages and higher incomes. These indirect effects generally exert a positive influence on employment across the wider economy.

Figure 3: Channels in which productivity growth may affect employment



Source: UUEPC

[18] UUEPC Policy Briefing Report: Productivity Growth and Employment Dynamics.

Productivity growth affects sectors differently

One of the main findings is that the direct employment effects of productivity growth vary substantially across sectors.

Figure 4 presents the estimated direct long run employment effects for NI. These estimates capture how productivity growth within a sector affects its employment.

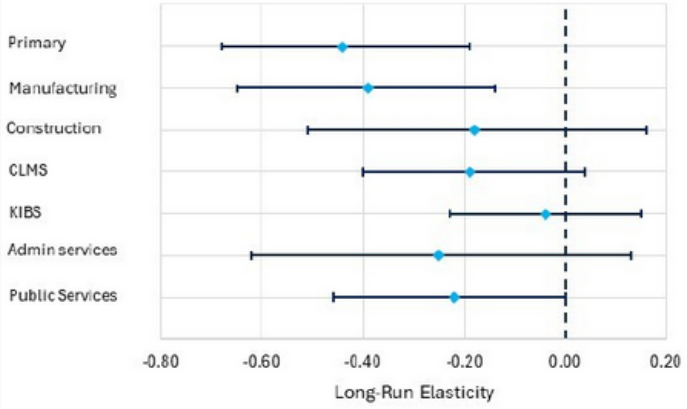
The strongest direct labour saving effects are observed in Primary industries (such as Agriculture), Manufacturing and Administrative Services. These sectors tend to involve a high proportion of routine, standardised and codifiable tasks that are more easily automated or mechanised. These findings are consistent with a large body of research showing that technological change often substitutes for routine and codifiable tasks yielding productivity gains.

By contrast, the estimated direct employment effects are much smaller in Knowledge Intensive Business Services (KIBS), such as Finance, ICT and Professional Services. This does not mean technology has no impact in these sectors. Rather, technology often complements rather than replaces workers in these sectors, enhancing productivity while leaving overall employment broadly unchanged.

Consumer facing services such as Retail, Hospitality and Personal Services also appear less vulnerable to large scale labour displacement. Many of these activities rely heavily on interpersonal interaction and locally delivered services that are difficult to fully automate.

Figure 4 captures the direct employment effects within sectors and do not account for the wider economic spillover effects.

Figure 4: Estimated Direct Employment Effects



Source: UUEPC

Notes: Estimates are long-run direct elasticities, with the central estimated represented by the diamond. For example, the central estimate of -0.39 for Manufacturing indicates that a 1% increase in productivity in this sector is associated with a 0.39% decrease in employment within the same sector, holding other modelled factors constant.

The horizontal bars show 95% credible intervals, indicating the range within which the true employment effect is likely to lie. Narrower intervals indicate greater certainty about the estimate, while wider intervals indicate greater uncertainty.

CLMS refers to Consumer and Local Market Services and includes wholesale and retail, transport, hospitality, arts and other personal services.

KIBS refers to Knowledge-Intensive Business Services and includes Finance, ICT and professional, scientific and technical services.

Spillovers matter

The analysis also indicates that productivity grow generates positive spillover effects across the wide economy. When one sector becomes more productive, other sectors often benefit.

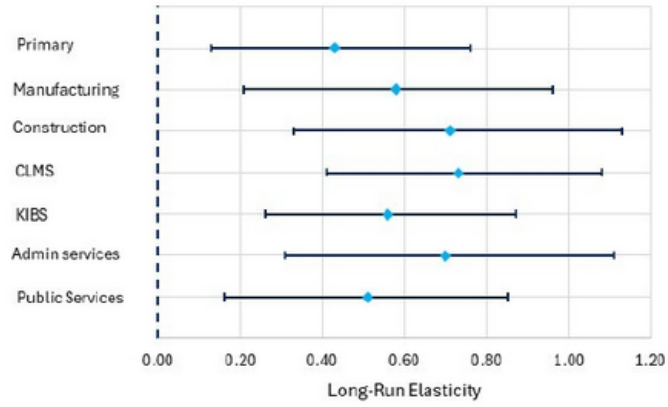
Some of these benefits operate through supply chains. More efficient firms may increase their demand for inputs from other industries. Lower production costs can also reduce prices for downstream businesses, allowing them to expand.

Other benefits arise through higher incomes and stronger demand. As productivity improves, consumers and businesses often have more spending power. This additional spending supports employment across a wide range of sectors.

Figure 5 shows the estimated indirect employment effects for NI. Unlike the direct effects, which vary substantially across sectors, the indirect effects are consistently positive across all sectors examined. This indicates that productivity growth in one part of the economy tends to support employment growth elsewhere. In many cases these positive spillovers substantially offset the direct labour saving effects identified in Figure 4.

This finding helps explain why productivity growth should not be viewed as a clear cut choice between jobs and efficiency. The employment consequences depend not only on what happens within a particular industry, but also on how productivity gains are transmitted through supply chains, consumer spending and wider economic activity.

Figure 5: Estimated Indirect Effects



Source: UUEPC

Notes: Estimates are long-run indirect elasticities. In this case, the central estimate of 0.58 for Manufacturing indicates that a 1% increase in the average productivity growth of other sectors within the regional economy is associated with a 0.58% increase in employment in the Primary sector, holding other modelled factors constant. As in Figure 4, the horizontal bars show 95% credible intervals.

Productivity growth often changes where jobs are located

Overall, the results suggest that productivity growth is more closely associated with employment reallocation rather than widespread job destruction.

Historically, technological change has repeatedly altered the composition of employment. Mechanisation reduced employment in agriculture while supporting expansion elsewhere. Automation transformed manufacturing while service industries grew. Digital technologies displaced some admin' tasks while creating demand for new occupations.

The challenge is that these transitions can be difficult for individual workers. A new job created in one sector is not necessarily easily accessible to someone displaced from another. Workers may require retraining, new opportunities may be located in different places and wages and job quality may differ. The transition can therefore be disruptive even when overall employment remains relatively stable or even increases.

This highlights the importance of managing labour market adjustments. The policy question is therefore not simply whether employment is created elsewhere in the economy, but whether workers can realistically access those opportunities.

Why industrial structure matters

The analysis also highlights the importance of industrial composition in determining how regions experience productivity growth.

The findings suggest that differences in employment responses are driven primarily by differences between sectors rather than differences between regions. This means that the employment consequences of productivity growth depend largely on the types of industries that are present within a regional economy. This has particular relevance for NI.

NI has above average concentrations of employment in sectors such as Agriculture, Manufacturing and parts of the public sector. At the same time, it has a smaller share of employment in several knowledge intensive tradable service sectors, including ICT, Finance and Professional Services.

As a result, the impact of technological change and productivity growth on NI's labour market will depend heavily on how its industrial structure evolves over time. Regions with a larger concentration of sectors experiencing stronger labour saving effects may face greater adjustment pressures, while regions with a stronger presence in sectors benefiting from positive spillovers may be better positioned to capture employment gains associated with productivity growth.

What AI changes and what it doesn't

Although the analysis is based on historical data and does not directly model AI, it provides a useful framework for thinking about how AI may affect employment.

Importantly, AI exposure and employment impact are not the same thing. Previous waves of technological change primarily affected routine production and clerical activities. AI has the potential to influence a much broader range of cognitive, analytical and professional tasks. As a result, sectors such as ICT, Finance and Professional Services may experience substantial changes in the nature of work even if overall employment remains relatively resilient.

Recent evidence from professional service environments suggests that AI adoption increases the speed and quality of junior staff [19]. This points towards important complementarities between AI and skilled labour, at least in some settings.

The broader lesson from the productivity employment evidence is that the employment consequences of AI are unlikely to be uniform. Some activities may be automated, others may be augmented and wider economic spillovers may prove just as important as direct labour saving effects in determining overall employment outcomes. The overall employment impact of AI depend not only on technological capability, but on how firms, workers and institutions adapt through skills development, organisational change, management practices and labour market policies.

The policy challenge

Productivity growth is essential for improving living standards and supporting long term prosperity. The challenge is ensuring that the benefits are widely shared and that workers can adapt successfully to change.

This requires more than just encouraging innovation.

It also requires investment in skills, workforce transition support, management capability, digital adoption and lifelong learning. Policies that strengthen the ability of workers and firms to adapt to technological change are likely to become increasingly important.

[19] Brynjolfsson, Li and Raymond (2025)

About UUEPC

UUEPC is an independent economic research centre focused on producing evidence-based research to inform policy development and implementation. It engages with all organisations that have an interest in enhancing the Northern Ireland economy. The UUEPC's work is relevant to government, business and the wider public with the aim of engaging those who may previously have been disengaged from economic debate.

Contact Us

Director: Gareth Hetherington
@ g.hetherington@ulster.ac.uk

Principal Economist: Mark Magill
@ md.magill@ulster.ac.uk

Principal Economist: Dr Eoin Magennis
@ e.magennis@ulster.ac.uk

Principal Economist: Dr Karen Bonner
@ ka.bonner@ulster.ac.uk

Principal Economist: Dr Myles Patton
@m.patton1@ulster.ac.uk

Senior Economist: Marguerite Shannon
@ m.mcpeake@ulster.ac.uk

Senior Economist: Gillian Martin
@ g.mcausland@ulster.ac.uk

Assistant Economist: Sarah Perry
@ s.perry@ulster.ac.uk

Assistant Economist: Todd Gowdy
@t.gowdy@ulster.ac.uk

Centre Co ordinator: Danielle McKee
@ d.mckee@ulster.ac.uk

Website: www.ulster.ac.uk/epc

@ economicpolicycentre@ulster.ac.uk

@Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Ulster University
UUEPC
Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Department for the Economy

Department of Finance | An Roinn Airgeadais

Invest Northern Ireland

Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Belfast City Council

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Derry City & Strabane District Council
Comhairle Chathair Dhoire & Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cittie & Stràbane Destrick Council

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council