

Labour Market Statistics in Northern Ireland NERI Conference 23rd May 2023

***Gerard Colgan
NISRA***



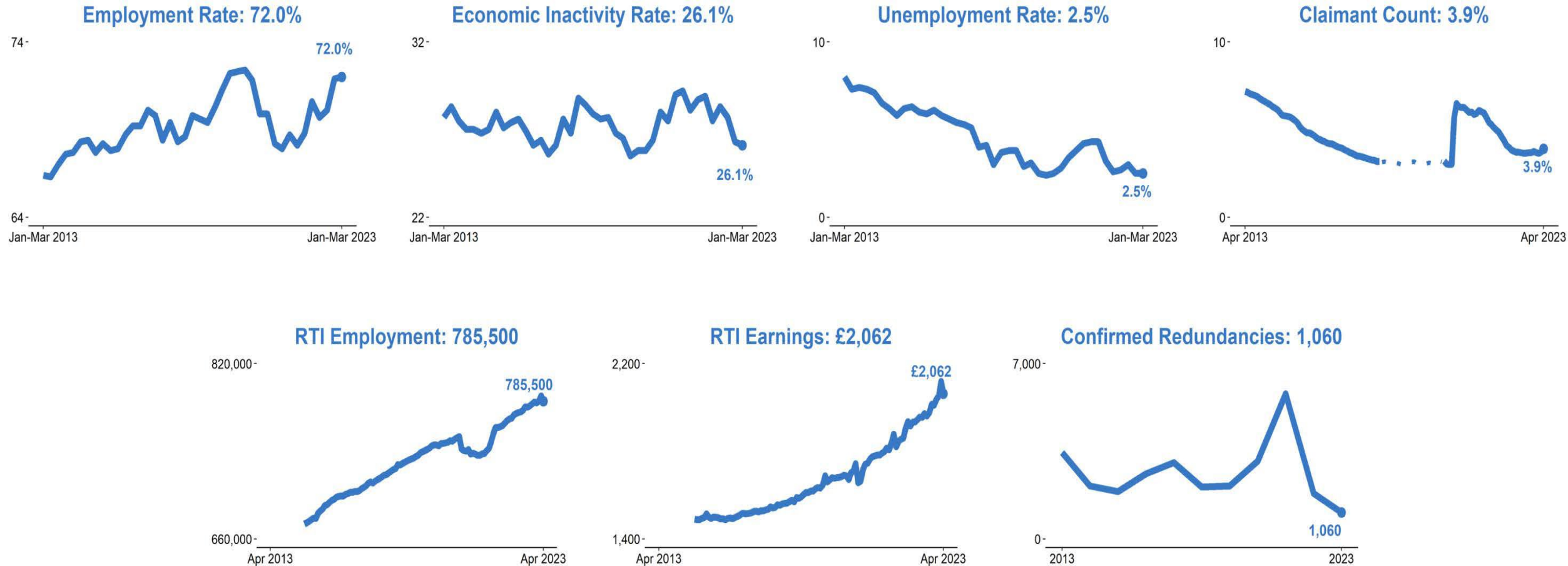
Department of
Finance

An Roinn
Airgeadais

Areas To Cover – Northern Ireland Labour Market Statistics

- Labour Force Survey
- Claimant Count
- Redundancies
- Quarterly Employment Survey
- HMRC PAYE Earnings and Employment
- Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Labour Market Statistics



Labour Force Survey, January-March 2023, seasonally adjusted and subject to future revisions.
Redundancies, Claimant Count and PAYE Real Time Information, April 2023.

Data published: 16 May 2023.

Labour Force Survey

- Sample Size - 3,900 domestic households per quarter.
 - Latest response rate – 68.3% (back to pre-pandemic levels).
- Rolling Monthly Labour Market Series.
- Mixed mode data collection – Initial Face-to-Face interview followed by telephone interviews and knock-to-nudge to encourage response.
- The monthly Labour Market report contains results from the LFS, Claimant Count, Redundancies, HMRC PAYE RTI and QES.



Department of

Finance

An Roinn

Airgeadais

Labour Force Survey – ILO Definitions

- **LFS unemployment** is defined as those aged 16 and over without a job who were able to start work in the two weeks following their LFS interview and had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained.
- **LFS employed** is defined as those aged 16 or over who did at least one hour of paid work in the reference week (whether as an employee or self-employed); those who had a paid job that they were temporarily away from; those on government-supported training and employee programmes and those doing unpaid family work.
- **Economically inactive** is defined as those not in employment who have not been seeking work within the last 4 weeks and/or are unable to start work within the next 2 weeks.



Labour Force Survey – Latest Results

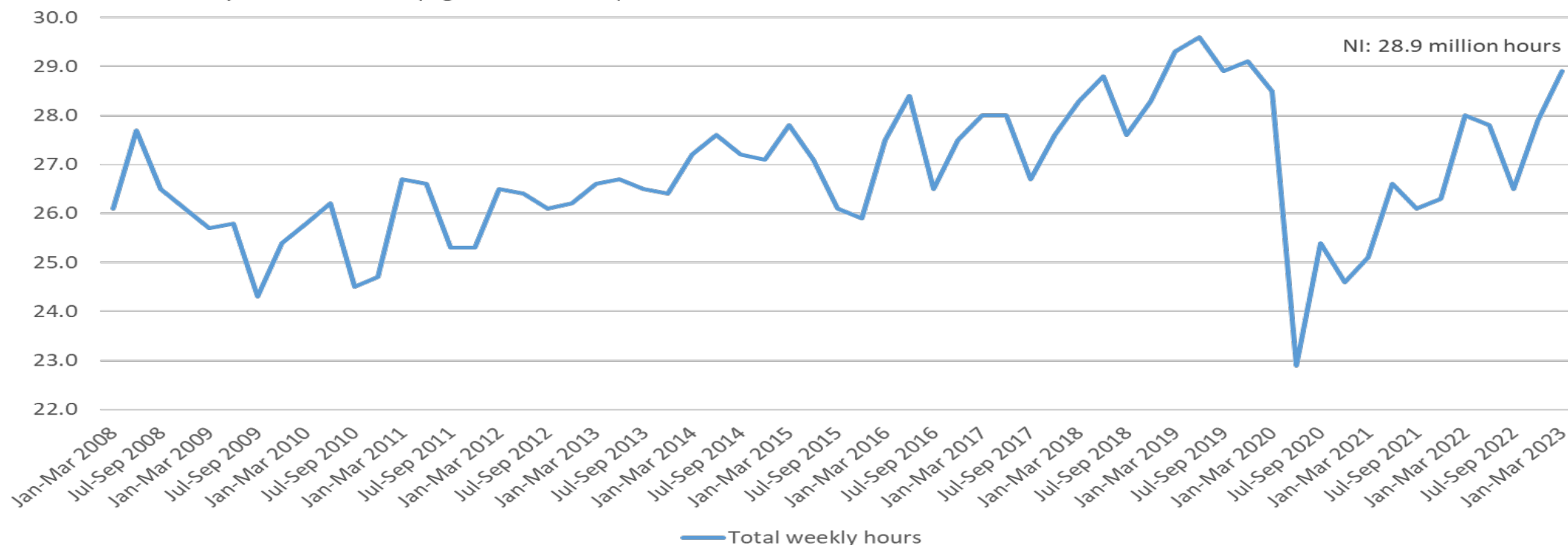
- The latest **NI seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** for the period January-March 2023 was estimated at **2.5%**. This was unchanged over the quarter and a decrease of 0.1pps over the year.
- The proportion of people aged 16 to 64 in work (**the employment rate**) increased by 0.1pps over the quarter and increased by 1.4pps over the year to **72.0%**.
- The **economic inactivity rate** (the proportion of people aged 16 to 64 who were not working and not seeking or available to work) decreased by 0.1pps over the quarter and decreased by 1.4pps over the year to **26.1%**.
- The **total number of weekly hours worked** in NI was estimated at **28.9 million hours**, an increase of 3.7% on the previous quarter and an increase of 3.0% on the equivalent period last year.



Total Hours Worked

Hours worked has returned to pre-pandemic levels

Total weekly hours worked (Age 16 and over), Jan-Mar 2008 to Jan-Mar 2023



Department of

Finance

An Roinn

Airgeadais

Claimant Count

- Claimant Count consists of all people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) plus those Universal Credit (UC) claimants who were claiming principally for the reason of being unemployed.
- Some claimants are wholly unemployed and seeking work, while others may be employed but with low earnings that make them eligible for unemployment related benefit support.
- Experimental Statistic as further work required on detailing the UC claimants.
- **In April 2023, the seasonally adjusted number of people on the claimant count was 37,500** (3.9% of the workforce), an increase of 3.8% from the previous month's revised figure. The April 2023 claimant count remains 25.6% higher than the pre-pandemic count in March 2020.



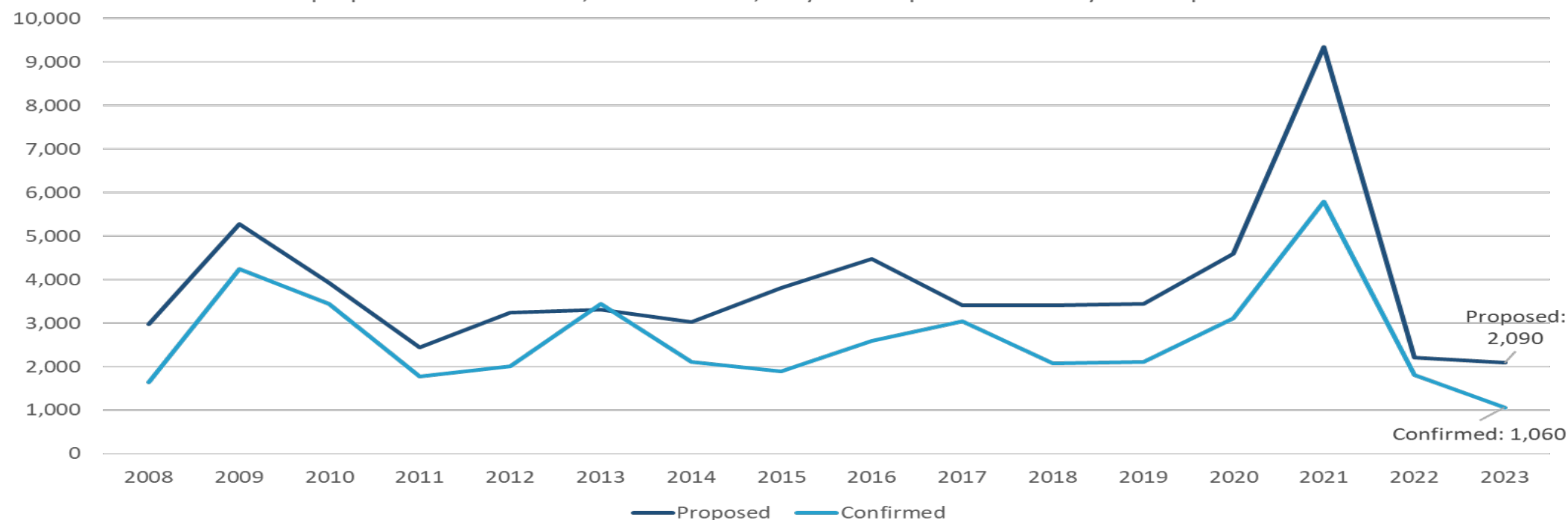
Redundancies

- Companies must inform the Department of (a) impending redundancies of 20 or more employees and (b) subsequent confirmed redundancies. Since all proposed redundancies do not actually take place, the confirmed total provides a better indication of real job losses.
- NISRA, acting on behalf of the Department for the Economy, received confirmation that **70 redundancies** occurred in April 2023, taking the annual total to **1,060**. There were **2,090 redundancies proposed** in the twelve months to April 2023.

Redundancies

Latest twelve month totals of confirmed and proposed redundancies remain below long-term trends

NI confirmed and proposed redundancies, Annual totals, May 2007-April 2008 to May 2022-April 2023



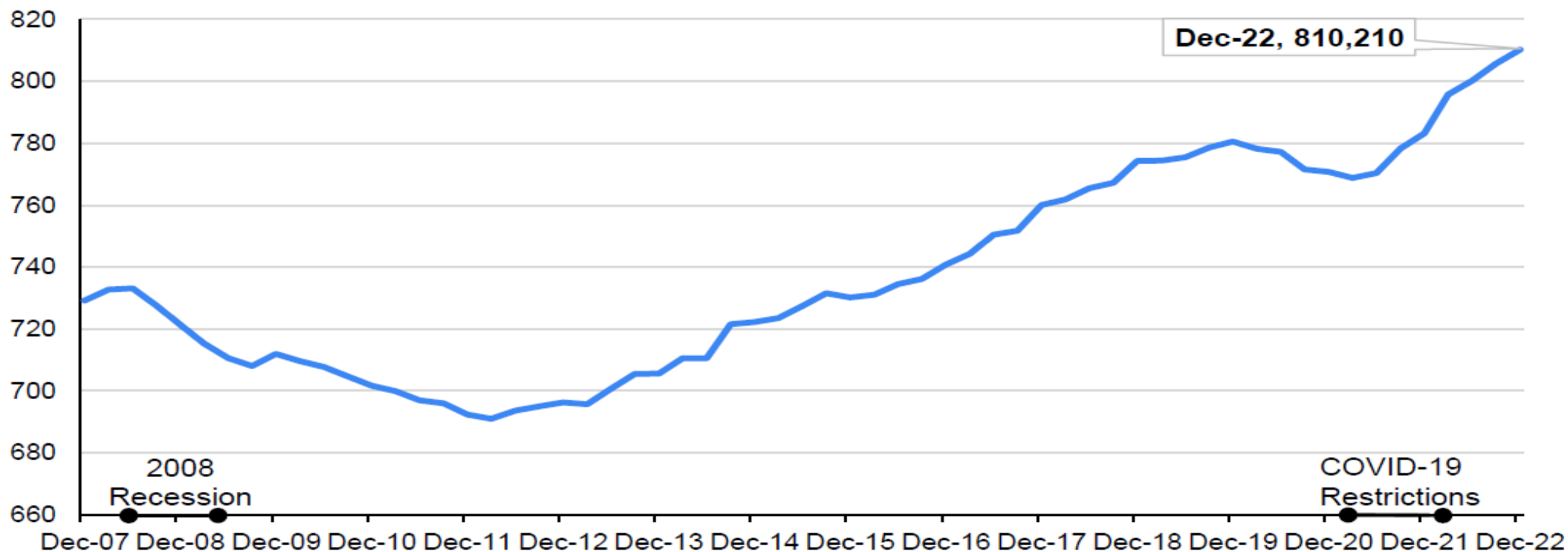
Quarterly Employment Survey

- QES - The QES provides short-term employee jobs estimates for NI, which are then used by the ONS to feed into the calculation of the quarterly workforce jobs estimates for the UK as a whole.
- The QES has a sample size of approximately 6,000 and covers all employers with 25 or more employees, all public sector employers, all businesses with more than one industry activity and a representative sample of smaller firms.
- Latest estimates show the **number of employee jobs** reached a series high in December 2022 of **810,210**. This was an increase of 4,460 jobs (+0.6%) over the quarter and 27,050 jobs (+3.5%) over the year compared to December 2021.
- December 2022 marked the seventh consecutive quarterly increase in employee jobs, following five quarters of decline.



Quarterly Employment Survey

Jobs (thousands)



Department of
Finance

An Roinn
Airgeadais

HMRC PAYE RTI – Employees and Earnings

- Payrolled employee counts from the HMRC's Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) system relate to employees paid by employers only, and do not include those who are self-employed. Data are based on where employees live and not the location of their place of work within the UK.
- The **number of employees receiving pay** through HMRC PAYE in NI in April 2023 was **785,500**, a decrease of 0.6% over the month and an increase of 1.5% over the year.
- Earnings from the HMRC PAYE indicated that NI employees had a **median monthly pay of £2,062 in April 2023**, a decrease of £56 (2.6%) over the month and an increase of £128 (6.6%) over the year.



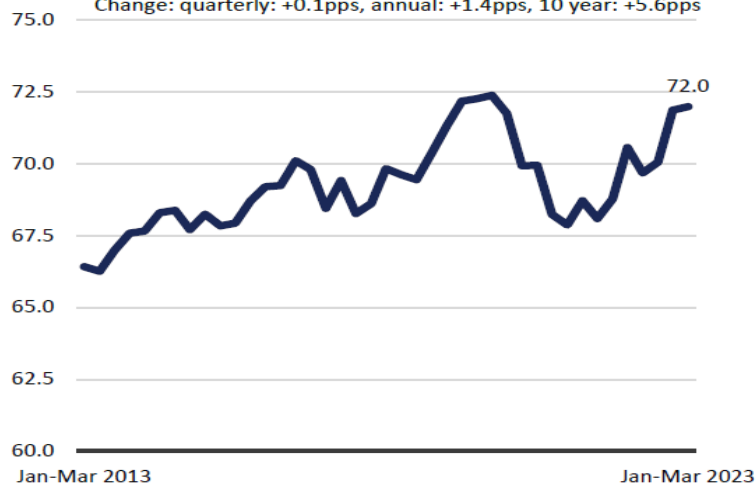
Annual Survey of Hours and Earning (ASHE)

- The ASHE is a UK wide survey that provides data on hourly, weekly and annual earnings by gender, work patterns, industry and occupation, including public versus private sector pay comparisons. It is based on a 1% random sample of jobs on the HM Revenue and Customs Pay As You Earn (HMRC PAYE) register.
- **Median gross weekly earnings** for full-time employees (“weekly earnings”) in April 2022 was **£592**, an increase of **2.9%** from £575 in 2021. This is the second consecutive annual increase in weekly earnings, following the largest annual increase on record (8.7% in the year to April 2021).
- **Real weekly earnings in NI decreased by 4.5%** over the year to April 2022, which is the largest annual decrease in real earnings on record.
- **Median annual earnings** increased by **3.2%** for all full-time employees in NI over the year to **£30,000**.



Employment Rate (%), 16-64

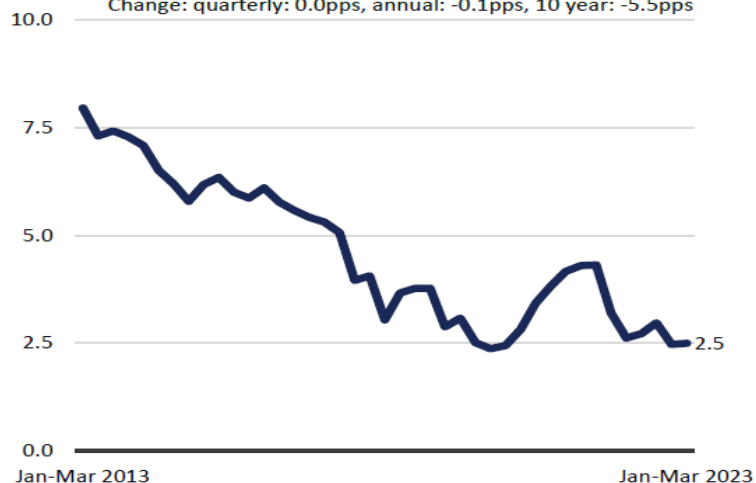
Change: quarterly: +0.1pps, annual: +1.4pps, 10 year: +5.6pps



Seasonally Adjusted, pps=percentage points
Source: [Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#)

Unemployment Rate (%), 16+

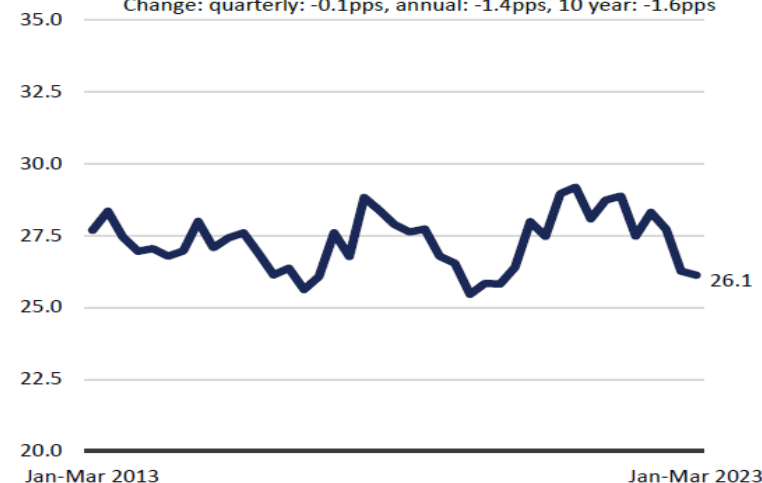
Change: quarterly: 0.0pps, annual: -0.1pps, 10 year: -5.5pps



Seasonally Adjusted, pps=percentage points
Source: [Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#)

Economic Inactivity Rate (%), 16-64

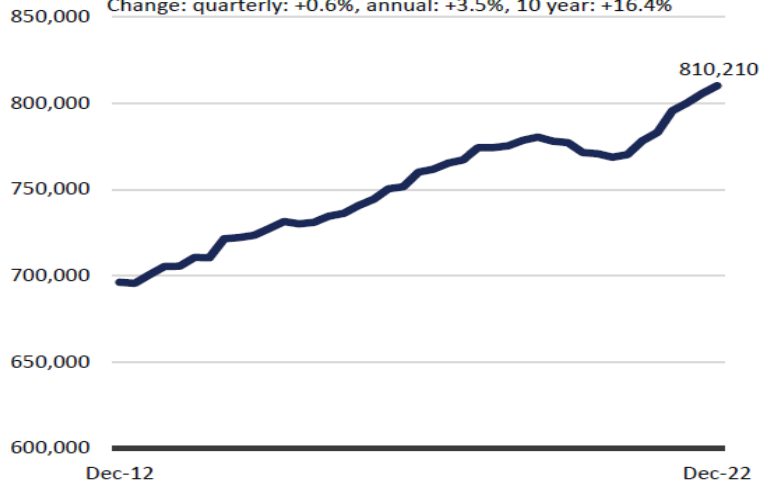
Change: quarterly: -0.1pps, annual: -1.4pps, 10 year: -1.6pps



Seasonally Adjusted, pps=percentage points
Source: [Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#)

Employee Jobs

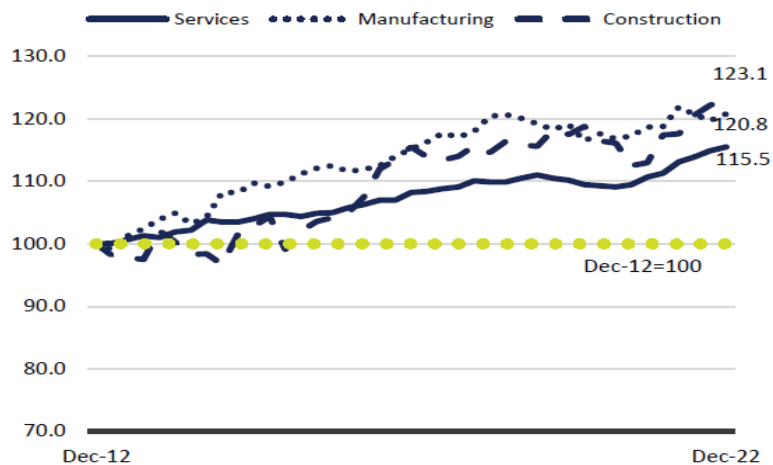
Change: quarterly: +0.6%, annual: +3.5%, 10 year: +16.4%



Quarterly, Seasonally Adjusted
Source: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Index of Employee Jobs by Industry Sector

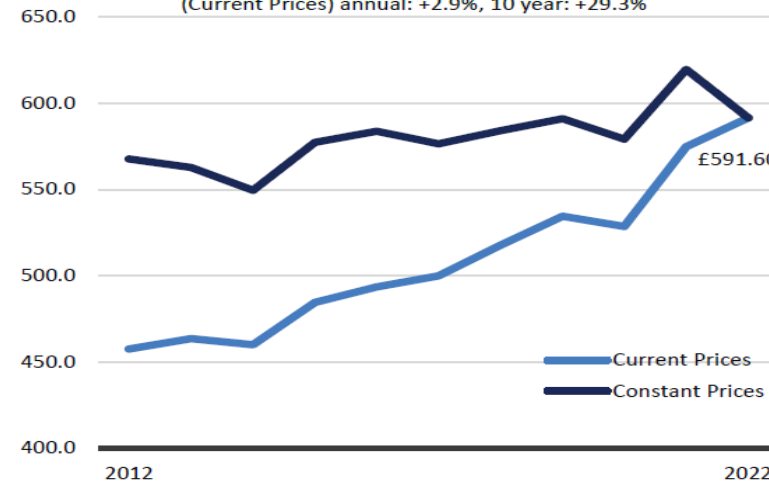
Change: (Services) quarterly: +0.5%, annual: +3.7%, 10 year: +15.5%
(Manufacturing) quarterly: +1.0%, annual: +1.7%, 10 year: +20.8%
(Construction) quarterly: +0.7%, annual: +4.9%, 10 year: +23.1%



Quarterly, Index, Seasonally Adjusted
Source: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Median Full-time Gross Weekly Earnings in Current and Constant Prices, £

Change: (Constant Prices) annual: -4.5%, 10 year: +4.2%
(Current Prices) annual: +2.9%, 10 year: +29.3%



Annual, £
Source: [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#)

Useful links

[ELMS Publication Schedule](#) – details of upcoming ELMS publications

[Economic Overview – Dashboard](#) – updated when new data is released by ELMS

[Economic Overview - slide pack](#) - updated when new data is released by ELMS

[Labour Force Survey – Dashboard](#) - updated when new labour force data is released by ELMS

[NI: IN PROFILE](#) - a resource pack of key statistics covering a range of areas of life in Northern Ireland

[NISRA data Portal](#) – range of ELMS data available to download under the Business & Energy, Economy and Labour Market & Social Welfare banners

Questions?

Contact: gerard.colgan@nisra.gov.uk