Key Facts
Northern Ireland is the world’s top region for FS technology inward investment.  
(Source: fDi Markets FT 2020) 2003-2020

Belfast is Europe’s leading FDI destination for new software development.  
(Source: fDi Markets FT 2020) 2003 - 2020

Northern Ireland is the #1 international investment location for US cyber security firms.  
(Source: fDi Markets FT 2020) 2014-2020

Northern Ireland is one of Europe’s most Business Friendly Regions of its size.  
(Source: fDi European Cities & Regions of the Future, 2018/19)

Over 1,100 international investors and a multitude of investors from the rest of the UK have chosen to locate in Northern Ireland.

Over 70% of new inward investors reinvest in Northern Ireland.
**Education & Skills**

**Government working with Industry & Academia**

Delivering higher level skills and research capabilities in priority areas.

**Assured Skills Programme**

Assured Skills helps ensure potential investors, and existing employers considering expansion, that the skills they need for their business can be found in Northern Ireland.

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**Academy Model**

If a company, or a consortium of companies, identifies a skills need, bespoke training can be developed which is typically delivered by a local college or university. NI’s Department for the Economy meets most of the costs.

**The popular Academy Model has been used in areas such as:**
- Data Analytics
- Human Resources
- Software Development
- Software Testing
- Cyber Security
- Financial Services

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**Queen’s University Belfast**

- CSIT (Centre for Secure Information Technologies) is the UK Innovation & Knowledge Centre (IKC) for secure information technologies.

**Ulster University**

- The Intelligent Systems Research Centre at Ulster University is one of the globally recognised ICT related university research centres in Northern Ireland.

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**Queen’s University Belfast and Ulster University both have fully functioning educational trading rooms.**

Ulster University’s Legal Innovation Centre is the first of its kind in the UK. Masters programmes include Smart Grids and Cyber Security.

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**Source:** QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020

1st in the UK for entrepreneurial impact

In the top 3% of global universities

In the world’s top 150 young universities

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Over 700 PhD places strategically directed at areas of economic relevance.
**Workforce**

One of the youngest populations in Europe

Highly educated, skilled, English speaking workforce with a strong and loyal work ethic.

53% of Northern Ireland’s workforce is under 40 years old.

Northern Ireland is the top region in the UK for educational attainment.

Northern Ireland is consistently the top performing region of the UK at GCSE and A-level examinations (equivalent to high school diploma).

In 2019, 84.8% of Northern Ireland students achieved the three top grades in A-level exams, compared to 75.8% in the rest of the UK.

80.6% of graduates received a first class or upper second class honours degree.

77% of high school graduates (post A-Level) go on to further and higher education compared to the UK average of 71%.

Students at NI higher education institutions obtained 17,275 qualifications - 54.3% obtained a first degree and 35.4% obtained a postgraduate qualification.

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications - A, AS and AEA - Results Summer 2019.

Fiscal Environment

19% Corporation tax

Research & Development
• Patent Box
  Corporation tax of 10%.
• R&D Tax Credits
  12% HMRC R&D Expenditure Credit.
  For every £1 spent on R&D, real cost to company can be 43p.

And Invest NI can offer:
• Financial support
• Technical and advisory support, including assistance with:
  • Property search
  • Talent sourcing
  • Operating efficiency
  • Business development

‘Since our original investment we have been continually impressed with the contribution our Belfast office has made in supporting the delivery of high quality legal services to Allen & Overy’s international client base.’

Andrew Brammer, IT & Shared Services Director, Allen & Overy

‘Northern Ireland is at the right price point when it comes to delivery, quality and cost, and, although the cost is nice, the most important thing that still makes Northern Ireland attractive to Allstate and other FDI is the pipeline of talent that exists.’

John Healy, Managing Director, Allstate NI

‘The support and insight Invest NI has offered us is so important to our forward-thinking business vision. Its understanding of Northern Ireland’s rich talent offering and thriving tech sector, is why we made the decision to invest here. Thanks to the doors that Invest NI has opened for us, we are already engaging with local universities about graduate opportunities and we’re excited for Northern Ireland talent to join the PEAK6 team.’

Judi Hart, CEO, PEAK6

‘The supply of talent in Northern Ireland, particularly at graduate level, is impressive and, coupled with the support from Invest NI and government, it makes this region highly attractive to a global company like Citi seeking the best location for growth.’

James Bardrick, Citi Country Officer, United Kingdom
Competitive Costs

Operating costs in Northern Ireland are more cost competitive than many other locations in the UK and Europe.

Shared service centres

Almost 60% lower than New York
Over 60% lower than London
31% lower than Dublin

Based on a 130 person shared services centre including salary, property and telecoms costs
Source: fDi Benchmark January 2020 for shared services centre

Salary
Salaries are lower in Northern Ireland than the UK average. Typical salaries for a 130 person shared services centre in the region are around:

58% less than New York
38% less than London
26% less than Dublin

Source: fDi Benchmark January 2020 for shared services centre

Prime office rents

Greater Belfast
£23 per sq foot

Dublin
£57* per sq foot
Source: CBRE - Bi monthly market report - Northern Ireland Q3, 2020
*1 €uro = 0.8873

London
£73 per sq foot
Source: Colliers International, 2020

Labour turnover
Labour turnover rates in Northern Ireland are amongst the lowest in Europe, offering additional savings.
Our Sectors

**Financial and Related Professional Services**
40,000 people
Areas of expertise:
- Financial Services Technology
- Capital Markets Technology
- Fund Administration Operations
- Risk, Regulation and Compliance
- Asset Management

**Food and Drink**
23,173 people in
196 Businesses
Areas of expertise:
- Red Meat
- Poultry
- Dairy
- Bakery
- Artisan and Speciality

**Life and Health Sciences**
Over 8,800 people in over 200 companies
Areas of expertise:
- Precision Medicine
- Medical Devices & Digital Health
- Clinical Trials

**Global Business Services**
20,000 people in 40 companies
Areas of expertise:
- Shared Services
- Customer Contact
- Knowledge Services

**Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering**
48,000 people in 1,600 companies
Areas of expertise:
- Advanced Materials & Composites
- Aerospace & Defence
- Automotive
- Materials Handling
- Electronics
- Consumer Products

**TV, Film and Digital Media**
7,000 people in 420 companies
Areas of expertise:
- Digital and Interactive
- Digital Media Technology
- E-Learning
- Film and TV Production
- Gaming and Animation
- Mobile Content
- Music

**Software and ICT**
15,000 people in 1,600 companies
Areas of expertise:
- Mobile
- Cyber Security
- Connected Health
- Digital Content
- Data Analytics
- BPO/Tech Support
- Telecoms and Network

**Legal Services**
6,400 people
Areas of expertise:
- Captive Legal Services
- Shared Services
- Legal Process Outsourcing
- In-house Counsel
- Software Solutions

**Food and Drink**
23,173 people in
196 Businesses
Areas of expertise:
- Red Meat
- Poultry
- Dairy
- Bakery
- Artisan and Speciality
40% of the world's tracked mobile crushing and screening equipment is made in Northern Ireland.

Harry Ferguson from Northern Ireland patented the technology that led to the modern tractor.

Each year, more than 370 million people receive medical diagnosis using Randox products.

The portable defibrillator was designed in Northern Ireland by Professor Frank Pantridge.

Over 30% of the world’s airline seats are made in Northern Ireland.

William Thomson, later Lord Kelvin, the father of modern science, was from Northern Ireland. He is best remembered for laying the first transatlantic telegraph cable.

Sir James Martin from Northern Ireland invented the aeroplane ejector seat. To date it has saved in excess of 7,600 pilots.

10% of the global FX market flows through Belfast every day ($500Billion).

Cameras designed and manufactured in Belfast by Andor Technology, a spin-out company from Queen’s University, were used by a team of international astronomers to discover two new Jupiter-sized planets.

One in five of all computer read/write heads are made by Seagate Technology in Londonderry in the UK’s largest nanotechnology site.

HBO's Game of Thrones filmed in Northern Ireland for 8 series.