

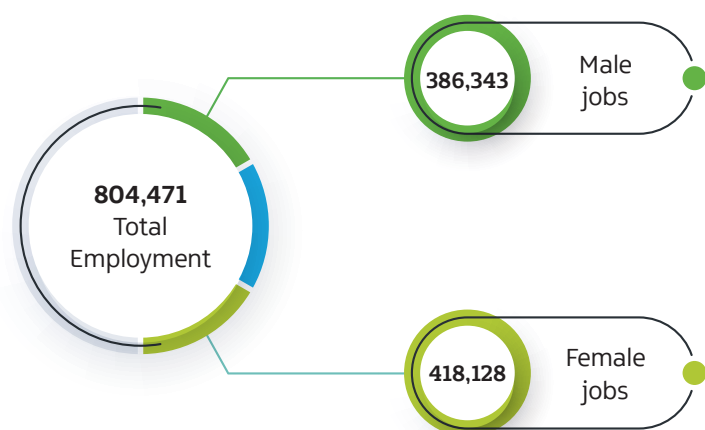
EMPLOYMENT IN NI

2023

Source: Business Register & Employment Survey, NISRA (October 2025)

The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is a survey of businesses in Northern Ireland. It collects employee job figures by gender and working pattern from public and private sector business in NI. An employee is anyone aged 16 years or over that an organisation directly pays from its payroll(s), in return for carrying out a full-time or part-time job (those working 30 hours or less), or being on a training scheme in Northern Ireland. Not included are employees based outside of NI, agency workers paid directly from the agency, voluntary workers, former employees only receiving pension, self-employed, HM armed forces, private domestic servants, jobskills trainees without a contract of employment and working owners who are not paid via PAYE. Agriculture workers are collected separately on the Agricultural Census in NI (DAERA) and are not included in employee jobs figures. The employment figure is calculated by adding the number of working owners to the number of employees including those working in agriculture.

Total Employment Breakdown 2023



Overall employee jobs have increased by **95,773 (14%)** from 2014 to 2023.



From 2014 to 2023 every council has seen an increase in jobs. Belfast had the largest increase (**28,312**) and Mid & East Antrim the smallest (**785**).

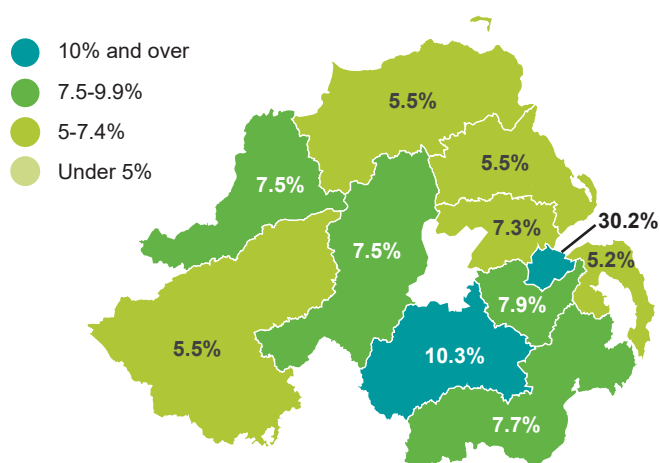


In 2023 service jobs continue to account for the greatest percentage of all jobs with **664,835 (82.6%)** jobs in this area.

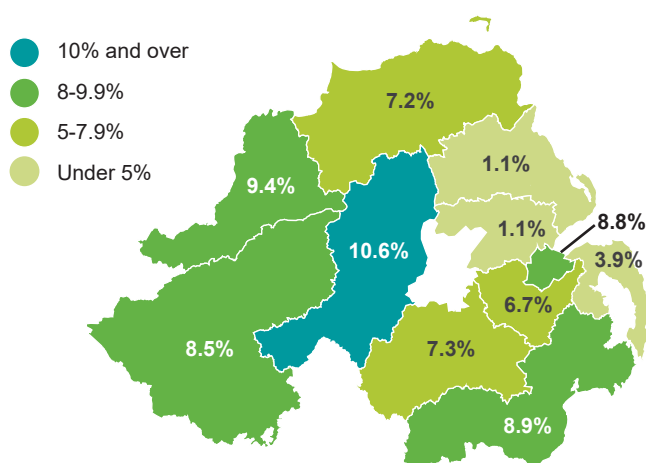


Mid Ulster has had the greatest change in job density at **10.6** percentage points, from **53.6** in 2014 to **64.2** in 2023

Percentage of All Employee Jobs by Council Area 2023

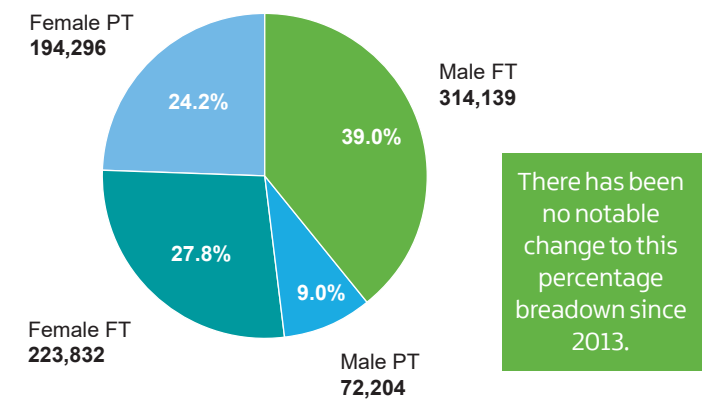


Change in Job Density by Council Area 2014 to 2023

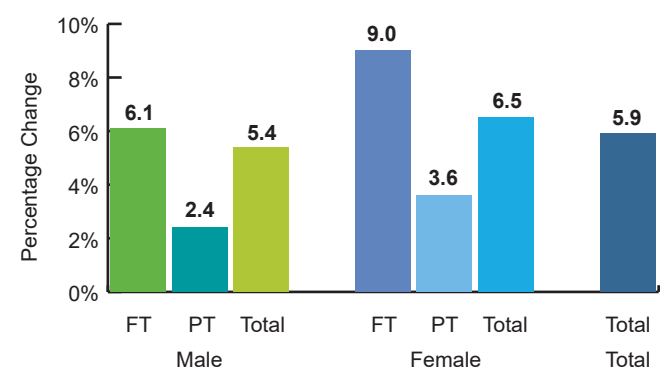


The percentage of employee jobs by council area shows that a larger percentage of overall jobs are located in Belfast and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon. If we look at job density though and how it has changed over time we can see a different pattern. The map on the right shows the difference between job density in 2014 and 2023 and indicates a greater rise in jobs per head of working population in the council areas shaded in the darker green. Job density is calculated by dividing the employee jobs in the council area by the working age population of the council area (those aged 16-64).

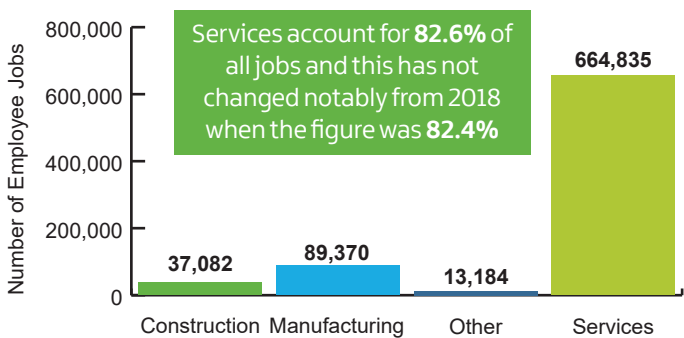
Employee Jobs by Gender & FT/PT 2023



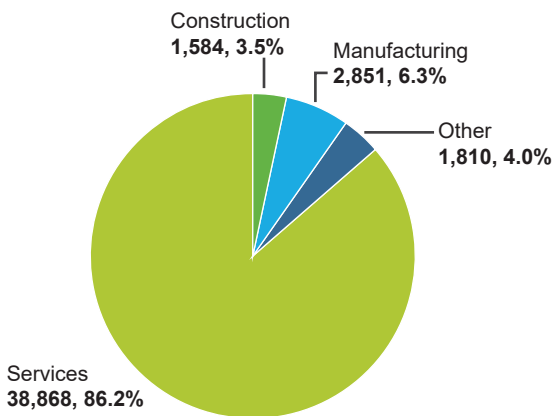
% Change in Employee Jobs by Gender & FT/PT 2018 - 2023



Employee Jobs by Industry 2023



Percentage of Total Job Growth 2018 to 2023



Percentage of Employee Jobs by DCA & Public/Private 2014 and 2023

