

Economic Indicators at a glance – July 2013

Contact: Richard Ramsey
Chief Economist, Northern Ireland
02890 276354 or 07881 930955

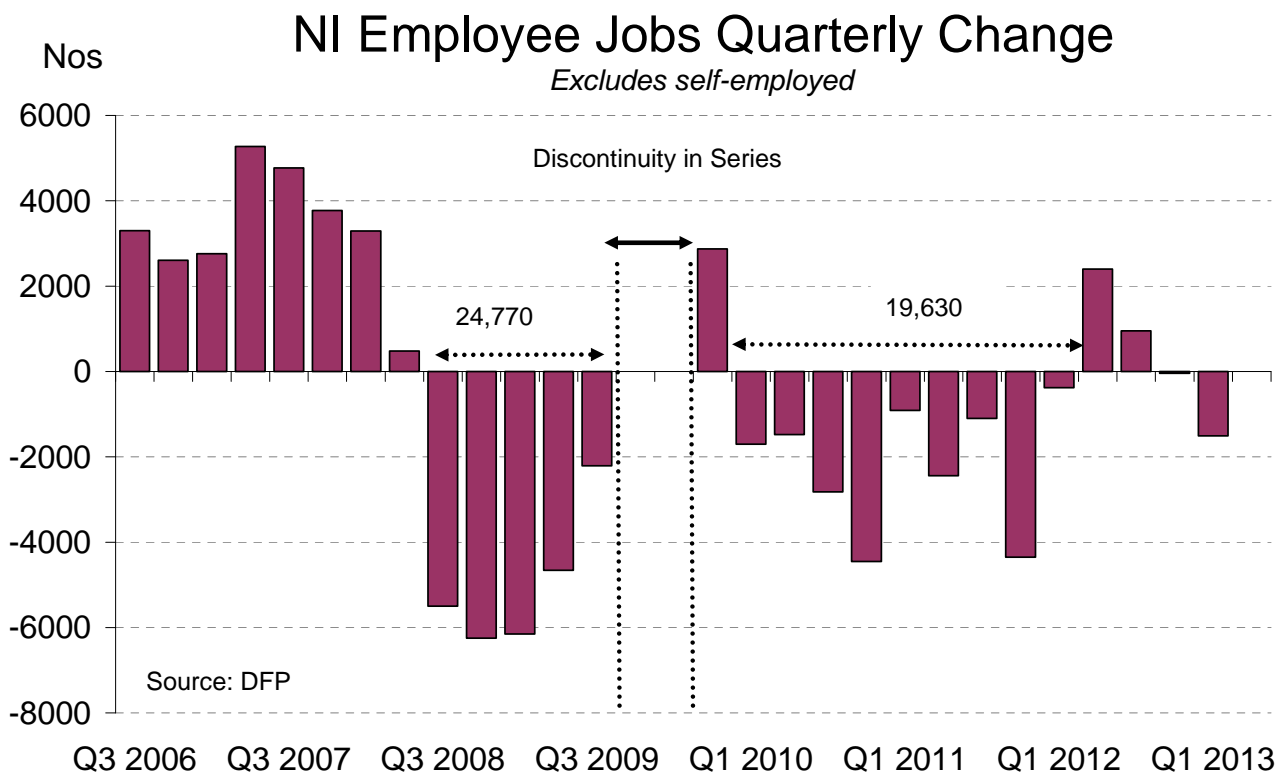
Richard.ramsey@ulsterbankcm.com

www.ulsterbank.com/economics

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Raft of job announcements will provide a much needed boost for Northern Ireland

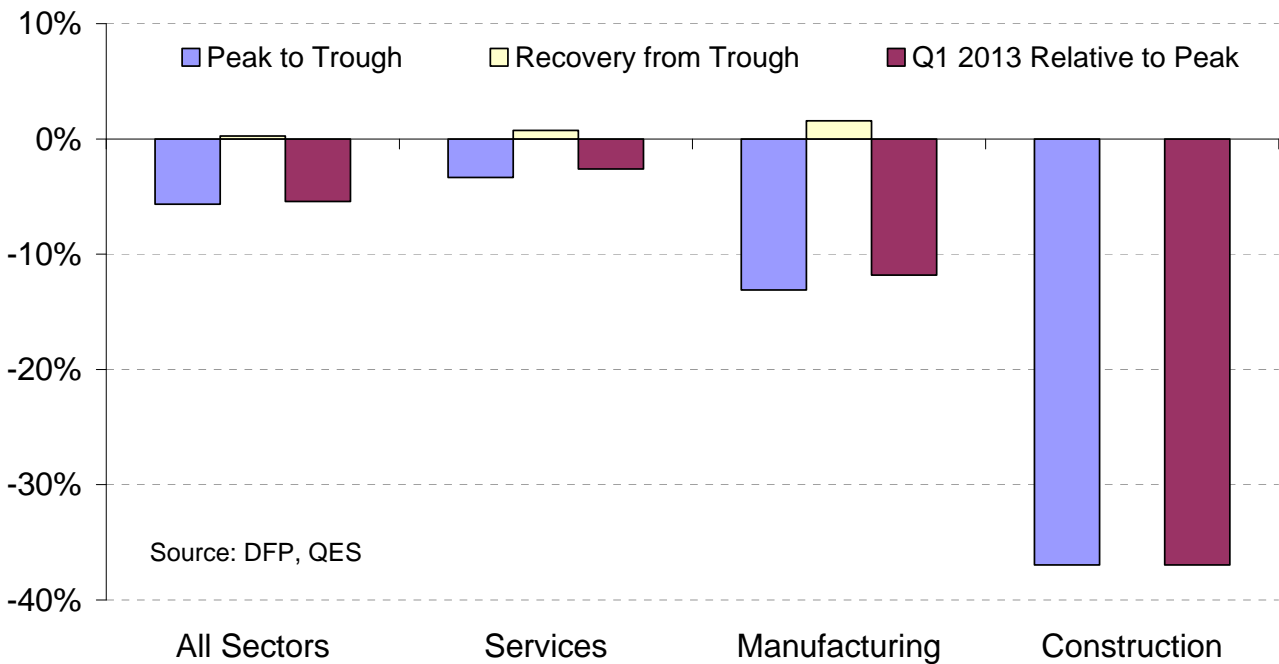
Last month saw the release of the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for Q1 2013. This measures the number of jobs as opposed to the number of individuals in employment. The QES excludes the self-employed. It should be noted that the QES coverage and methodology used to estimate the number of jobs in Northern Ireland has changed. This explains the apparent surge in job numbers in Q4 2009. Unlike the UK, Northern Ireland has yet to experience a meaningful recovery in terms of job numbers. Indeed, Northern Ireland has experienced only two quarters of growth in almost 5 years (*excluding Q4 2009*). Following a flat reading in Q4 2012, the latest quarter (Q1 2013) posted its largest decline in 5 quarters with a fall of 0.2% q/q or 1,510 jobs. The private sector accounted for these entire net job losses. The number of seasonally adjusted jobs peaked in Q2 2008 at 733,070 and troughed in Q1 2012 with 691,540. This represents a decline of 5.7% or 41,530 jobs. In the subsequent four quarters, Northern Ireland has recouped just 4% (1,800 jobs) of the jobs lost during the downturn. This highlights the scale of the job creation challenge facing Northern Ireland. If the recent weeks and months are anything to go by, Northern Ireland has made progress on this front. Clearly the long-list of job announcements unveiled in recent weeks and months (*e.g. Wrightbus, Almac, Linden Foods, Norbrook, Deloitte, Terumo BCT etc*) have still to feed into the official employee jobs figures in due course.



Construction employment still falling and back to 1998 levels

Northern Ireland’s construction sector remains the only broad sector not to have experienced any employment recovery. In Q1 2013, the local construction sector posted a 1.1% quarterly decline in employee jobs. Meanwhile the manufacturing and services sectors recorded declines of 0.3% and 0.2% respectively. Employment within the construction sector has fallen by 37% since its peak in Q4 2007. This compares with a 19% decline in the UK over the same period. The number of employee jobs in the construction sector is now back at Q1 1998 levels. Meanwhile the services and manufacturing sectors have experienced some recovery in terms of employee jobs, albeit modest. Northern Ireland’s service sector employment in Q1 2013 was 2.6%, or 15,310 jobs, below its Q2 2008 peak. The local manufacturing sector remains even further adrift, at almost 12% or 10,000 jobs below its pre-recession employment peak.

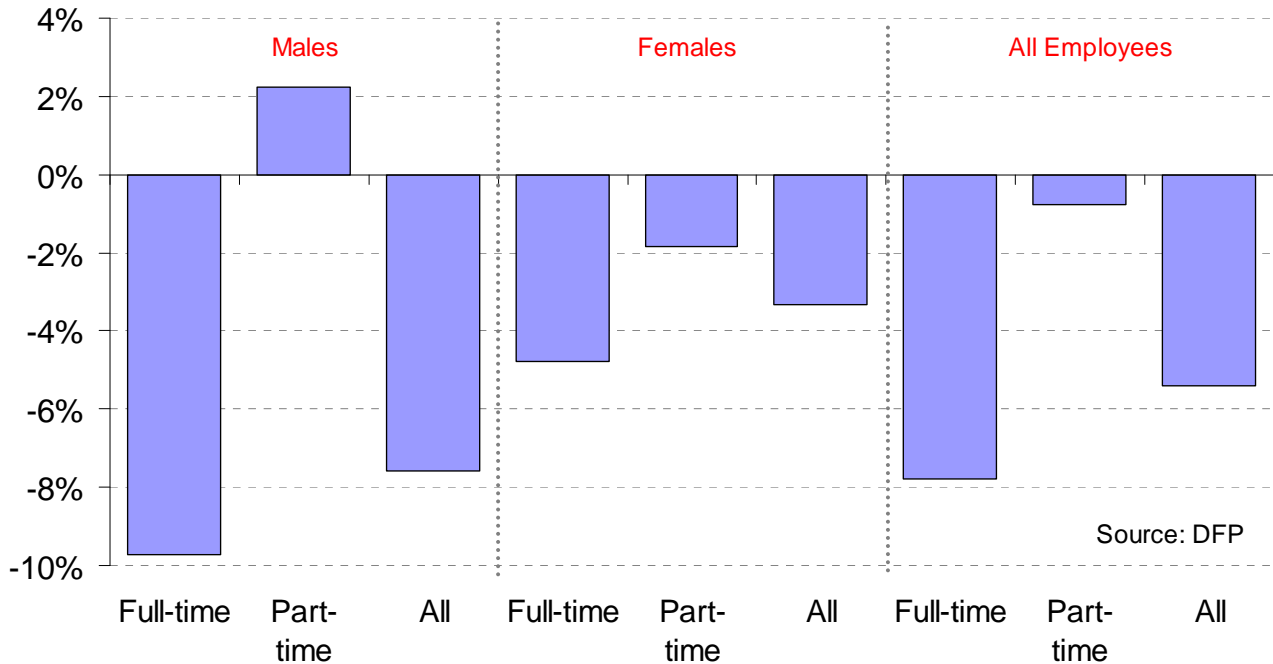
**Northern Ireland Employment
(Employee Jobs)**



Full-timers and males have borne the brunt of the job losses so far

Looking at Northern Ireland’s employee jobs figures in more detail reveals two key trends in terms of gender and working pattern. Namely, full-time employment and male employees have borne the brunt of the job losses so far. Males have accounted for over two thirds (68%) of the net decrease in employee jobs between March 2008 and March 2013. This is due to the concentration of job losses in male dominated industries such as manufacturing and construction. Over the last 5 years the number of male employee jobs has fallen by 27,060 jobs (7.6%), which compares with 12,520 (3.3%) for females. However, the number of male employees in full-time employment has fallen by almost 10% over the same period, double the decline experienced by females. Interestingly, the number of male part-time jobs has increased by 2.3% (+1,450) over the last 5 years. Female part-time employment in March 2013 was less than 2% below the corresponding figure in March 2008. As a result, Northern Ireland’s overall part-time employment has fallen by less than 1% (1,910) over the last 5 years. Meanwhile full-time employment has fallen by a hefty 7.8%, or 37,670 jobs, over the same period.

NI Employee Jobs by gender & work pattern % Change March 2008-March 2013



Richard Ramsey,
21st June 2013

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