

# Economic Indicators at a glance – October 2013

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

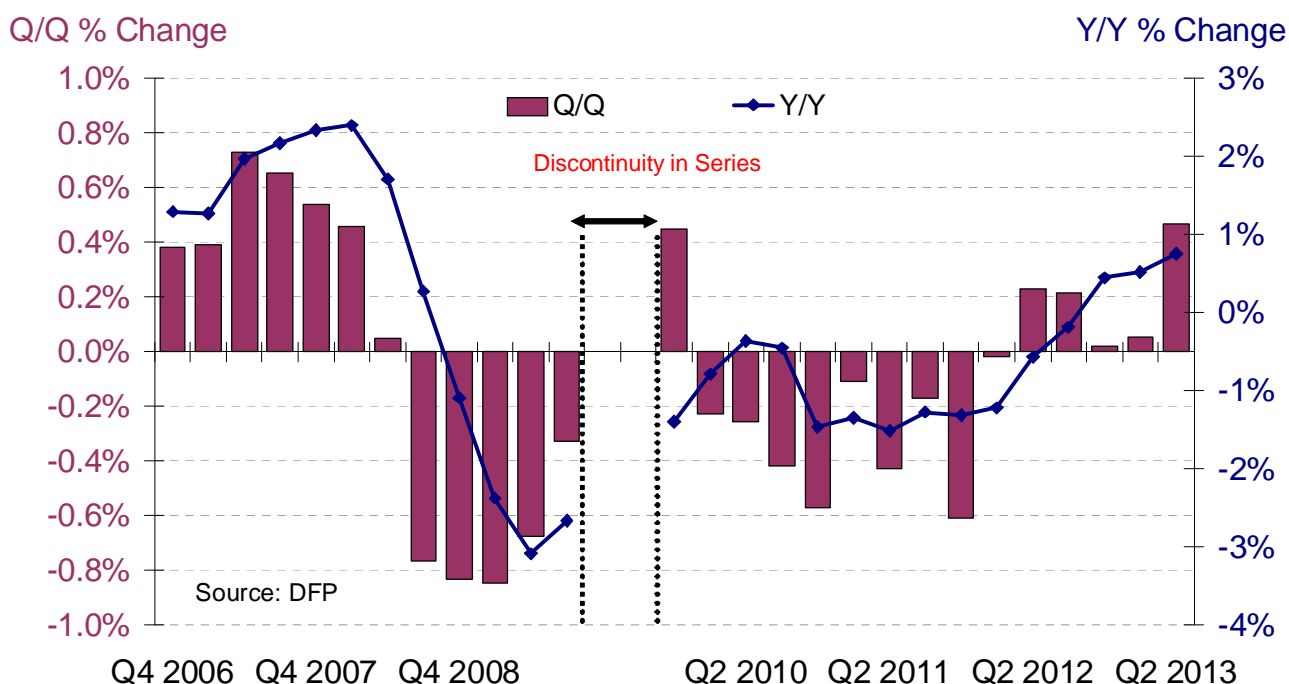
[Richard.ramsey@ulsterbankcm.com](mailto:Richard.ramsey@ulsterbankcm.com)  
[www.ulsterbank.com/economics](http://www.ulsterbank.com/economics)  
Twitter @UB\_Economics

*Appears in Belfast Telegraph Business Month published 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013*

## Northern Ireland posts its 5<sup>th</sup> successive quarter of employment growth

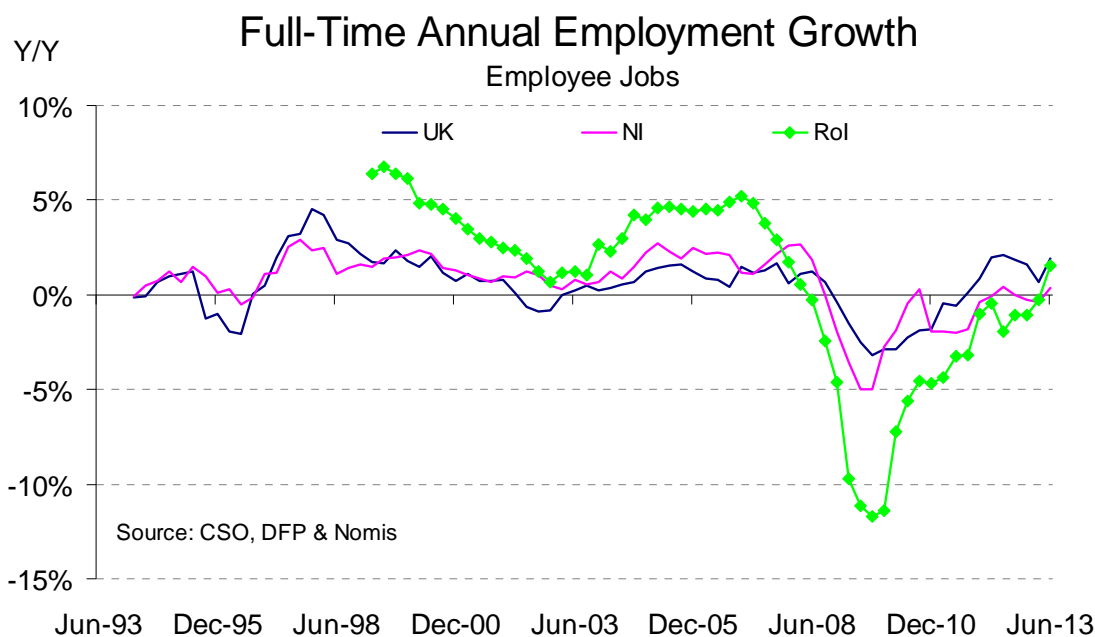
Last month saw the release of the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for Q2 2013. This measures the number of jobs as opposed to the number of individuals in employment. The QES excludes the self-employed. It should be noted that the QES coverage and methodology used to estimate the number of jobs in Northern Ireland (NI) has changed. This explains the apparent surge in job numbers in Q4 2009. Revisions to earlier data now reveal that NI has posted 5 consecutive quarters of employment growth. Furthermore, the increase in job numbers in Q2 2013 of 3,240 jobs (+0.5%) represented the largest increase since Q1 2008 (*excluding Q4 2009*). The private sector accounted for the vast majority (85%) of these net job gains. The number of seasonally adjusted jobs peaked in Q2 2008 at 733,040 and troughed in Q1 2012 with 691,580. This represents a decline of 5.7% or 41,460 jobs. During the subsequent five quarters, NI has recouped one sixth (6,810) of the jobs lost during the downturn. This highlights the scale of the job creation challenge facing NI. It is encouraging that NI's economic recovery appears to have moved to the next stage, a meaningful recovery in employment. The steady stream of Invest NI-backed investments over the last year, promising jobs in the near future, alongside improved business confidence & rising investment intentions, should keep employment growth on an upward trajectory. At a sector level, the most impressive growth occurred within the manufacturing industry. The latter posted a 1.6% quarterly increase of 1,160 in Q2 2013. Manufacturing employment is now at its highest level since March 2009. Meanwhile the services sector recorded a quarterly rise of 0.4% (+2,190). The most disappointing aspect of the QES was the further decline in construction employment. Construction employment has now fallen by over 37% from its pre-downturn peak.

## NI Employee Jobs Excludes Self-Employed



### **NI, UK & RoI all post y/y employment growth for full-time jobs**

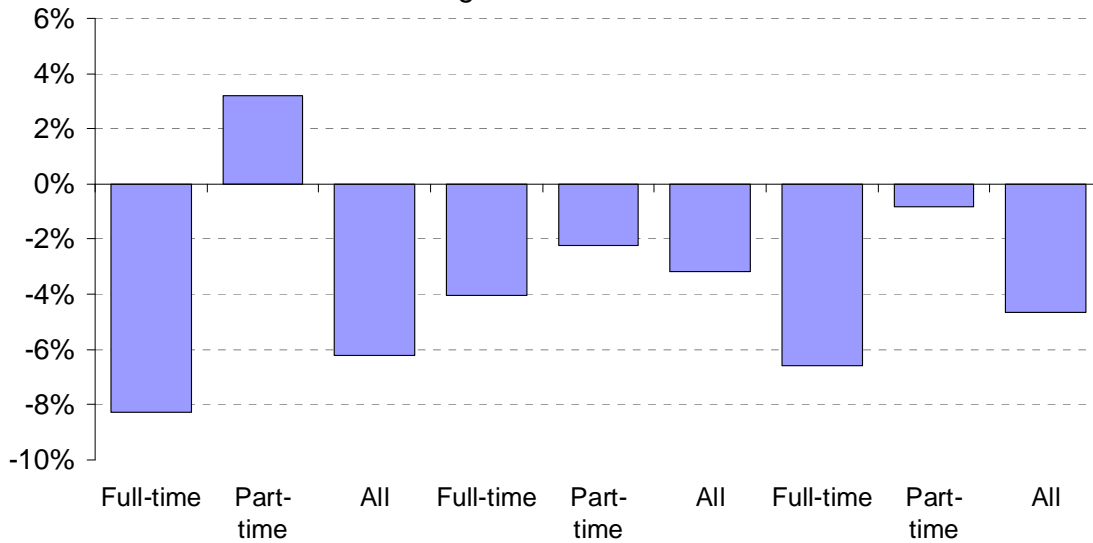
Full-time employees have borne the brunt of the job losses in the UK, NI and the Republic of Ireland (RoI). However, it is encouraging to note that all three economies posted an annual rise in full-time employment in Q2 2013. Indeed, this is the first time since Q1 2008 that all three economies have simultaneously posted year-on-year rises in full-time employment. In Q2 2013, the UK and RoI posted year-on-year increases of 1.9% and 1.6% respectively. Meanwhile NI posted a more modest rise of 0.4% y/y or +1,670 jobs. Despite this recent rise, the number of full-time jobs in NI in Q2 2013 remains 6.6% (or 32,000 jobs) below the corresponding figure in Q2 2008. By comparison, UK full-time employment in Q2 2013 was just 1.4% below the corresponding figure in Q2 2008. Of the three economies, however, the RoI has experienced the largest decline in full-time employment over the last 5 years. In Q2 2013, full-time employment in the RoI was 19.2% below where it was five years previous.



### **Full-timers and males have borne the brunt of the job losses so far but both areas return to growth**

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 almost two thirds (65%) of the net decrease in employee jobs between June 2008 and June 2013. This is due to the concentration of job losses in male dominated industries such as manufacturing and construction. Male (+0.5%) and female (+0.2%) full-time employment have both posted rises over the last year. However, it has been part-time employment that has recorded the largest gains. Male part-time employment increased by 2.4% y/y in June 2013. As a result, male part-time employment was over 3% higher in Q2 2013 than it was in Q2 2008. Meanwhile, female part-time employment increased by 1.1% between Q2 2012 and Q2 2013. Despite this rise, the number of female part-time employee jobs is still 2.2% below where it was 5 years ago. Overall, part-time employment in NI is 0.8% below where it was five years ago (Q2 2008).

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



*Richard Ramsey,*  
30<sup>th</sup> September 2013

This document is issued for information purposes only for clients of Ulster Bank Group who are eligible counterparties or professional customers, and does not constitute an offer or invitation to purchase or sell any instrument or to provide any service in any jurisdiction where the required authorisation is not held. Ulster Bank and/or its associates and/or its employees may have a position or engage in transactions in any of the instruments mentioned.

The information including any opinions expressed and the pricing given, is indicative, and constitute our judgement at time of publication and are subject to change without notice. The information contained herein should not be construed as advice, and is not intended to be construed as such. This publication provides only a brief review of the complex issues discussed and readers should not rely on information contained here without seeking specific advice on matters that concern them. Ulster Bank make no representations or warranties with respect to the information and disclaim all liability for use the recipient or their advisors make of the information. Over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives can involve a number of significant and complex risks which are dependent on the terms of the particular transaction and your circumstances. In the event the market has moved against the transaction you have undertaken, you may incur substantial costs if you wish to close out your position.

Ulster Bank Limited Registered Number R733 Northern Ireland. Registered Office 11-16 Donegall Square East, Belfast, BT1 5UB. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Member of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group.

Ulster Bank Ireland Limited . A private company limited by shares , trading as Ulster Bank , Ulster Bank Group and Bank Uladh. Registered in Republic of Ireland. Registered No. 25766. Registered Office: Ulster Bank Group Centre, George's Quay, Dublin 2. Member of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group. Ulster Bank Ireland Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Calls may be recorded.



**Ulster Bank Limited accepts no liability for the outcome of any actions taken arising from the use of this article**