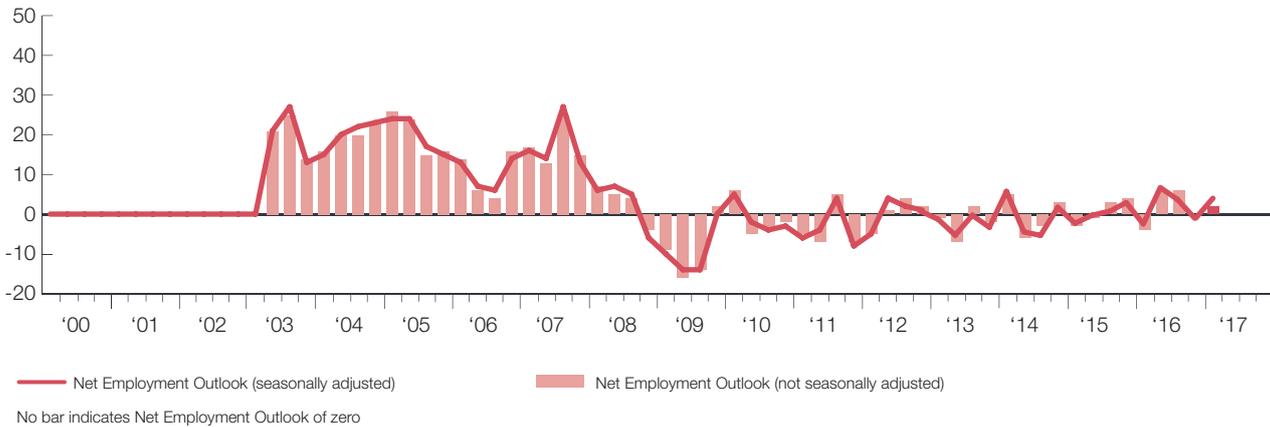


Northern Ireland employers are cautiously optimistic

At +4%, the Employment Outlook for the first quarter of 2017 in Northern Ireland has shown hiring intentions enter positive territory when compared to the previous quarter. While cautious, employers are also slightly more optimistic about job creation than the same period last year.



Q1 2017

Northern Ireland employment snapshot

Average weekly pay

Average weekly pay is **£484**, some £107 below the national average, and remains the lowest rate of pay in the UK.

Hiring Outlook

For the first quarter of 2017, the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook in Northern Ireland is **+4%**, which is lower than the national average (+7%).

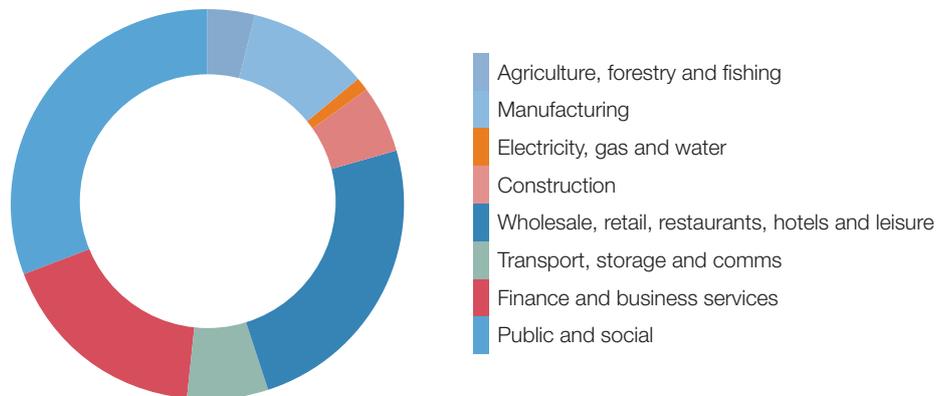
Employment

The rate of employment in Northern Ireland is well below the national average and remains at **69.9%**, the lowest in the country. Nevertheless, this represents a 2.1 percentage point increase when compared to the same period last year.

Unemployment

At **5.6%**, Northern Ireland has the second-highest unemployment rate in the UK. The rate of unemployment has risen slightly (0.3%) when compared to the same period last year.

WHERE DO PEOPLE WORK?



WHAT DO PEOPLE DO?



Market overview

Across the region, we're seeing hiring demand, available roles, and employer optimism being tempered by caution. It seems that in the aftermath of Brexit, a number of employers are taking a "wait and see" approach and placing new roles on hold.

Nevertheless, some sectors are still seeing more advertised roles and an increase in demand for candidates. For example, the BPO, automotive, and manufacturing sectors are particularly buoyant while hospitality roles continue to climb in tandem with a rise in tourism and new hotels.

However, talent shortages are still an issue in the region. Employers continue to seek our advice on how to improve their employer brand and stand out from competitors.