**Employment**

* **The 2023 employment rate (16-64) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough was estimated at 76.6%, an increase of 1.4 percentage points on 2022 and 3 percentage points above the Northern Ireland average.**
* **The number of persons in employment (16-64) was estimated at 109,000.**
* **The estimated employment rate (16-64) was 78.2% for males and 75.1% for females.**

**Of those aged 16-64 in employment, approximately 48% (52,000) were male and 52% (57,000) were female.**

It is estimated that 113,000 people (aged 16+) in the borough were in employment in 2023. The majority of those in employment were working full-time (80% of those aged 16+).

|  | In Employment (16+) |
| --- | --- |
| All | 113,000 |
|  |  |
| Full-time | 90,000 |
| Part-time | 23,000 |

*Table 1: Number of people aged 16+ in employment in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2023. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA. Please note figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand so may not sum.*

The employment rate for the borough in 2023 was 64% for those aged 16+ and 76.6% for those aged 16 to 64. The employment rate for both age groups is higher in the borough than Northern Ireland overall. For those aged 16 to 64, the employment rate has been higher in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough than Northern Ireland for each of the last fifteen years. The employment rate for both age groups in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough had been in decline between 2018 and 2021 but increased greatly in 2022 and has increased again in 2023 to what is now the highest of the years presented. At 76.6% in 2023, the working age employment rate in the borough is now 3 percentage points above the Northern Ireland average while the employment rate for those aged 16+ in the Borough is 3.5 percentage points above the Northern Ireland average.

|  | Employment Rate (16+) | | Employment Rate (16 – 64) | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ABC | NI | ABC | NI |
| 2009 | 58.4% | 55.0% | 67.2% | 65.1% |
| 2010 | 61.4% | 55.3% | 70.2% | 65.8% |
| 2011 | 60.3% | 56.4% | 70.9% | 67.0% |
| 2012 | 54.2% | 56.0% | 68.2% | 67.0% |
| 2013 | 56.5% | 56.2% | 68.4% | 67.1% |
| 2014 | 58.0% | 56.3% | 71.0% | 67.7% |
| 2015 | 57.1% | 57.0% | 69.4% | 68.4% |
| 2016 | 58.7% | 57.5% | 70.8% | 69.4% |
| 2017 | 60.6% | 57.2% | 73.3% | 69.1% |
| 2018 | 61.8% | 58.0% | 73.9% | 70.0% |
| 2019 | 59.3% | 59.3% | 72.3% | 71.9% |
| 2020 | 58.6% | 57.3% | 71.3% | 69.8% |
| 2021 | 58.1% | 57.4% | 70.9% | 70.2% |
| 2022 | 63.1% | 59.2% | 75.2% | 71.9% |
| 2023 | 64.0% | 60.5% | 76.6% | 73.6% |

*Table 2: Employment rate for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland between 2009 and 2023. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.*

*Figure 1: Employment rate (16+) for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland between 2009 and 2023. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.*

*Figure 2: Employment rate (16-64) for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland between 2009 and 2023. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.*

**A blue person to show male employment rate

Description automatically generated**

**16-64 Employment Rate (ABC) = 78.2%**

**16-64 Employment Rate (NI) = 76.6%**

**A red person icon with a white background

Description automatically generated**

**16-64 Employment Rate (ABC) = 75.1%**

**16-64 Employment Rate (NI) = 70.7%**

**Unemployment[[1]](#footnote-1)**

* **The unemployment rate (16 and over) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough for 2023 was estimated at 3.4%, an increase of 0.7 percentage points on 2022.**
* **The number of unemployed persons aged 16 and over in 2023 was estimated at 4,000, up from 3,000 in 2022.**

Figure 3 below presents the unemployment rate by LGD in 2023. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough had the second highest unemployment rate of the eleven LGD’s and was 1.2 percentage points above the Northern Ireland average. Fermanagh and Omagh had the highest unemployment rate at 4.6% while Lisburn and Castlereagh had the lowest at 0.6%.

Figure 3: Unemployment Rate (16+) by local government district, 2023. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.

**A blue person with a white hat

Description automatically generated**

**Unemployment Rate (ABC) = 4.6%**

**Unemployment Rate (NI) = 2.8%**

**A red person icon with a white background

Description automatically generated**

**Unemployment Rate (ABC) = 2.2%**

**Unemployment Rate (NI) = 1.6%**

**Economic Inactivity**

* **The 2023 economic inactivity rate (16-64) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough was estimated at 20.9%, a decrease of 1.7 percentage points over the year.**
* **The number of persons who were economically inactive (16-64) in 2023 was 30,000.**
* **The number of persons who were economically inactive (16+) in 2023 was 60,000.**

**Of those aged 16-64 who were economically inactive, 40% (12,000) were male and 60% (18,000) were female.**

Figure 4: Economic Inactivity Rate (16-64) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough and Northern Ireland, 2009- 2023. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.

Figure 4 presents the economic inactivity rate (16-64) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and the Northern Ireland average from 2009-2023. At 20.9% in 2023, the economic inactivity rate (16-64) in the borough is the lowest of the years presented and 3.8 percentage points below the Northern Ireland average. Over the years presented, the economic inactivity rate (16-64) in the borough has been consistently below the Northern Ireland average.

**A blue person with a white hat

Description automatically generated**

**Economic Inactivity Rate (ABC) = 17.9%**

**Economic Inactivity Rate (NI) = 21.2%**

**A red person icon with a white background

Description automatically generated**

**Economic Inactivity Rate (ABC) = 23.5%**

**Economic Inactivity Rate (NI) = 28.2%**

**Qualification Levels[[2]](#footnote-2)**

* **In 2023, just over 10% of the working age population (16-64) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough had no qualifications, down from 12.7% in 2022.**
* **The percentage of the working age population achieving level 4 and above qualifications has increased slightly to 38% in 2023.**

Figure 5: Qualification levels in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, 2009- 2023. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.

As presented in Figure 5, the percentage of the population (aged 16-64) with no qualifications has been in decline over the years and the rate in the borough is now less than half of what it was in 2009. Between 2009 and 2023, the percentage of the population achieving RQF level 4 and above qualifications has increased by 14.4 percentage points from 23.6% in 2009 to 38% in 2023. Since 2021 there has been an increase in the percentage of the population achieving below RQF level 4 qualifications while the percentage of the population achieving RQF level 4 and above qualifications has fallen by 1.6 percentage points.

Figure 6 presents the qualification levels of the working age population by local government district in 2023. Lisburn and Castlereagh have the most qualified workforce with just over 50% of the working age population achieving RQF level 4 and above qualifications. This is the only LGD where the percentage achieving RQF level 4 and above qualifications exceeds the percentage achieving below RQF level 4. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, almost 90% of the population aged 16-64 have some form of qualification from GCSE level to a higher level degree while just 10.4% of the population have no qualifications.

Figure 6: Qualification levels by local government district, 2023. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.

All data is available at the following link:

[Labour Force Survey Annual Tables 2023 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-annual-tables-2023)

**Glossary**

**Employment Rate**

The headline employment rate is calculated by dividing the employment level for those aged from 16 to 64 by the population for that age group.

**Unemployment Rate**

The headline unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the unemployment level for those aged 16 and over by the total number of economically active people aged 16 and over. Economically active is defined as those in employment plus those who are unemployed.

**Economically Active**

People aged 16 and over who are either in employment or unemployed.

**Economic Inactivity**

Economically inactive people are those without a job who have not actively sought work in the last four weeks, and/or are not available to start work in the next two weeks.

**Inactivity Rate**

The headline inactivity rate is calculated by dividing the inactivity level for those aged from 16 to 64 divided by the population for that age group.

1. The unemployment estimates are based on a smaller sample size and as such, estimates may be less precise and should be treated as indicative. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In 2022 the education section of the Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey was updated. The questions have been updated to reflect the current regulated qualifications framework (RQF) for England and Northern Ireland and new types of qualifications that were not previously captured.

   Qualification analysis is split into level 4 and above, below level 4, and no qualifications.

   Level 4 and above includes foundation degrees, higher degrees, HND/HNC, and equivalent qualifications.

   Below level 4 includes A-Levels, AS Levels, GCSE’s, Entry level certificates and diplomas, and equivalent qualifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)