

HOSPITALITY, LEISURE, TRAVEL AND TOURISM FACT SHEET – NORTHERN IRELAND

OVERVIEW AND PROSPECTS



People 1st is the Sector Skills Council for the hospitality, leisure, travel & tourism industry. It covers the following 14 industries: food & service management, events, gambling, holiday parks, hospitality services, hotels, hostels, membership clubs, pubs/bars & nightclubs, restaurants, self catering accommodation, tourist services, travel services and visitor attractions.

There are 45,200 people working in the sector in NI. This accounts for around 5% of all jobs in Northern Ireland.

Over the next few years, it is estimated that around 2,700 new workers will be required each year to satisfy demand.

There is a wide range of occupations in this sector including chefs, kitchen & catering assistants, waiting staff, bar staff, travel agents and tour guides. The level of qualifications vary for these roles but it would be expected that skilled staff such as chefs or travel agents would be trained to a minimum of NVQ Level 2.

OCCUPATIONS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY

	Total employment			AAR*
	2007	2012	2017	2007-2017
All Occupations	49,300	53,500	57,300	2,715
Managers and Senior Officials e.g. Hotel and Accommodation Managers, Restaurant and Catering Managers, Publicans and Managers of Licensed Premises, Travel Agency Managers	12,100	13,800	16,000	840
Skilled Trades Occupations e.g. Chefs, Cooks	5,500	5,200	4,700	125
Personal Service Occupations e.g. Travel Agents, Travel and Tour Guides	2,500	3,100	3,600	210
Elementary Occupations e.g. Hotel Porters, Kitchen and Catering Assistants, Waiting Staff, Bar Staff, Leisure and Theme Park Attendants	17,600	18,900	19,400	905

Source: Working Futures 2007-2017, UK Commission for Employment and Skills

* AAR is the number of new recruits that will need to be attracted to the industry each year to meet demand

SKILLS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are various routes for people wanting to get into the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industry. The skills and qualifications needed vary according to occupation and include apprenticeships, NVQs, foundation degrees, HNDs, degrees and professional qualifications. Further information needed for different occupations within the industry can be found at: www.uksp.co.uk/

CURRENT VACANCIES AND SKILL SHORTAGES

In 2005, 14% of hospitality, leisure, travel & tourism employers reported having vacancies with almost half of these proving difficult to fill. A fifth of difficult to fill vacancies are due to skill shortages i.e. where applicants lack the required skills, qualifications or work experience.¹



Particular job roles for which employers struggle to find suitably qualified candidates include chefs and managerial positions.²

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN NORTHERN IRELAND...

- 63% of the sector's workforce is female
- 47% work on a part-time basis
- 32% of people in the sector work in the restaurant industry³
- almost 1,000 people are currently enrolled in hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism related apprenticeships.⁴

USEFUL LINKS

Careers Service NI	Provides an impartial all-age careers information, advice and guidance service: www.careersserviceni.com
People 1 st	Provides information on the SSC, including how we can help employers, new entrants and existing employees: www.people1st.co.uk/
UKSP	A guide to the industry offering information on everything from careers and qualifications to new and emerging jobs: www.uksp.co.uk/
JobCentre Online	Contains vacancies currently notified to Jobs and Benefit offices: www.jobcentreonline.com
Eures	The European Mobility Portal: www.europa.eu.int/eures/home.jsp

Information provided by People 1st. Last updated March 2009. To check that this is the most up-to-date fact sheet go to www.careersserviceni.com

¹ Northern Ireland Skills Monitoring Survey 2005, Department for Employment and Learning

² Recruitment and Retention Survey 2005, People 1st

³ Labour Force Survey, 2007/08, Office for National Statistics

⁴ Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland, 2009