**Businesses**

In 2024 there were 9,330 VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in the borough, accounting for 11.7% of all such businesses in Northern Ireland, the fourth highest of the eleven councils.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| District Council Area | Number | % of NI |
| Antrim and Newtonabbey | 4,290 | 5.4% |
| Ards and North Down | 4,835 | 6.0% |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 9,330 | 11.7% |
| Belfast | 11,445 | 14.3% |
| Causeway Coast and Glens | 6,280 | 7.8% |
| Derry City and Strabane | 5,575 | 7.0% |
| Fermanagh and Omagh | 8,715 | 10.9% |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh | 5,155 | 6.4% |
| Mid and East Antrim | 5,165 | 6.5% |
| Mid Ulster | 9,715 | 12.1% |
| Newry, Mourne and Down | 9,540 | 11.9% |
| Northern Ireland | **80,045** | **100.0%** |

*Table 1: VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Northern Ireland by Council in 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA. Please note figures have been rounded to the nearest five and therefore may not sum to totals.*

*Figure 1: VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Northern Ireland by Council in 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.*

Table 2 presents the number of businesses in the Borough between 2013 and 2024. Between 2013 and 2014 there was a fall in the number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in the borough after which the numbers increased year-on-year until 2023. In 2024, there were 60 less businesses in the Borough compared to 2023, a fall of just 0.6%. In Northern Ireland overall, the number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses increased by 810 or 1% between 2023 and 2024. Overall, since 2013, there has been an increase of 1,460 businesses in the borough. This is an increase of 18.6%, just slightly higher than the increase shown in Northern Ireland overall for the same period, 18.2%. The proportion of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in Northern Ireland located in the borough has remained relatively steady since 2013.

|   | Number | % of NI |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2013 | 7,870 | 11.6% |
| 2014 | 7,810 | 11.5% |
| 2015 | 7,865 | 11.6% |
| 2016 | 8,100 | 11.6% |
| 2017 | 8,275 | 11.6% |
| 2018 | 8,555 | 11.6% |
| 2019 | 8,715 | 11.5% |
| 2020 | 8,725 | 11.5% |
| 2021 | 8,930 | 11.5% |
| 2022 | 9,255 | 11.7% |
| 2023 | 9,390 | 11.9% |
| 2024 | 9,330 | 11.7% |

*Table 2: VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough between 2013 and 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA. Please note figures have been rounded to the nearest five.*

 *Figure 2: VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough between 2013 and 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.*

Agriculture, forestry and fishing make up the largest proportion of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in 2024 in the borough, 2,490 accounting for 26.7%. This is followed by construction (14.3%) and retail (8.1%). Together these three broad industry groups account for almost half (49.1%) of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in the borough. The proportion of agriculture, forestry and fishing in the borough (26.7%) is higher than the proportion in Northern Ireland overall (23.6%). The proportion of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in the professional, scientific and technical industry group is lower than Northern Ireland overall, 6.7% in the borough compared to 8.2% in Northern Ireland.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Broad Industry Group | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | %  | Northern Ireland | % |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 2,490 | 26.7% | 18,910 | 23.6% |
| Production | 695 | 7.4% | 5,445 | 6.8% |
| Construction | 1,335 | 14.3% | 11,375 | 14.2% |
| Motor trades | 410 | 4.4% | 2,980 | 3.7% |
| Wholesale | 425 | 4.6% | 3,390 | 4.2% |
| Retail | 760 | 8.1% | 6,220 | 7.8% |
| Transport and storage (inc. postal) | 500 | 5.4% | 2,900 | 3.6% |
| Accommodation and food services | 400 | 4.3% | 4,420 | 5.5% |
| Information and communication | 165 | 1.8% | 2,235 | 2.8% |
| Finance and insurance | 110 | 1.2% | 1,245 | 1.6% |
| Property | 260 | 2.8% | 2,495 | 3.1% |
| Professional, scientific and technical | 625 | 6.7% | 6,595 | 8.2% |
| Business administration and support services | 335 | 3.6% | 3,240 | 4.0% |
| Public administration and defence | 0 | 0.0% | 55 | 0.1% |
| Education | 70 | 0.8% | 755 | 0.9% |
| Health | 250 | 2.7% | 2,930 | 3.7% |
| Arts, entertainment, recreation & other svs | 495 | 5.3% | 4,855 | 6.1% |
| Total | **9,330** | **100.0%** | **80,045** | **100.0%** |

*Table 3: Broad industry group of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland in 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA. Please note figures have been rounded to the nearest five and therefore may not sum to totals.*

 *Figure 3: Broad industry group of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.*

The majority of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in the borough in 2024 employ fewer than 50 people, 98.2% of such businesses. This is similar to the Northern Ireland business profile of which 97.8% are businesses with less than 50 people employed. Only 1.1% of businesses in Northern Ireland and 0.9% in the borough have 100 or more employees.

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| **Employee Size Band** | **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon** | **%**  | **Northern Ireland** | **%** |
| **01** | 2,785 | 29.8% | **22,140** | 27.7% |
| **1-9** | 5,660 | 60.7% | **49,285** | 61.6% |
| **10-19** | 425 | 4.6% | **4,245** | 5.3% |
| **20-49** | 295 | 3.2% | **2,645** | 3.3% |
| **50-99** | 80 | 0.9% | **880** | 1.1% |
| **100-199** | 45 | 0.5% | **420** | 0.5% |
| **200-249** | 5 | 0.1% | **80** | 0.1% |
| **250+** | 35 | 0.4% | **345** | 0.4% |
| **Total** | **9,330** | **100.0%** | **80,045** | **100.0%** |

*Table 4: Employee size band of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland in 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA. Please note figures have been rounded to the nearest five and therefore may not sum to totals. 1This sizeband includes holding companies and those companies that are not yet trading, for example, if a factory is under construction.*

 *Figure 4: Employee size band of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland in 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA. Please note the zero sizeband includes holding companies and those companies that are not yet trading, for example, if a factory is under construction.*

The turnover profile for VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2024 is also broadly similar to that of Northern Ireland. 79.2% of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in the borough have a turnover of less than £500,000 compared to 78.6% for Northern Ireland overall. More than one in ten (12%) businesses in the borough have a turnover of £1,000,000 or more. The percentage is just slightly higher for Northern Ireland at 12.6%. The number of businesses with a turnover of £1m or more has increased in both the Borough and Northern Ireland overall by 6.7% and 8.4% respectively since 2023.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Turnover Size Band (£ thousand) | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | %  | Northern Ireland | % |
| 0-49 | 2,175 | 23.3% | 18,480 | 23.1% |
| 50-99 | 1,625 | 17.4% | 13,580 | 17.0% |
| 100-249 | 2,355 | 25.2% | 20,455 | 25.6% |
| 250-499 | 1,230 | 13.2% | 10,425 | 13.0% |
| 500-999 | 830 | 8.9% | 7,005 | 8.8% |
| 1,000-4,999 | 835 | 8.9% | 7,480 | 9.3% |
| 5,000+ | 285 | 3.1% | 2,615 | 3.3% |
| Total | **9,330** | **100.0%** | **80,045** | **100.0%** |

*Table 5: Turnover size band of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland in 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA. Please note figures have been rounded to the nearest five and therefore may not sum to totals.*

 *Figure 5: Turnover size band of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland in 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.*

The Business Demography, Northern Ireland Report (2022) provides an analysis of business registrations (births), de-registrations (deaths) and survivals of active businesses registered in Northern Ireland[[1]](#footnote-1). In 2022, the number of business births was greater than the number of deaths for seven local government districts across Northern Ireland, with Antrim and Newtownabbey, Ards and North Down, Causeway Coast and Glens, and Mid and East Antrim the exceptions. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon there were 665 business births compared to 575 business deaths. The business death rate increased in eight district council areas between 2021 and 2022 and is now 7.8% in the borough compared to 6.6% in 2021.

*Figure 6: The number of business births and deaths for all district council areas across Northern Ireland in 2022.* *Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.*

For businesses registered in 2017, Mid Ulster had the highest survival rate at 55.9%, followed by Newry, Mourne and Down (51.5%) and Lisburn and Castlereagh (50.5%). The five-year survival rate for businesses in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough has fallen from 50.4% in 2021 to 49% in 2022.

*Figure 7: Five-year survival rate of businesses born in 2017 by local government district. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.*

Further information on businesses can be found via the following link:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/business-statistics/inter-departmental-business-register>

1. [Business Demography NI | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/business-demography-ni) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)