



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Research and Information Service Briefing Note

---

05 February 2014

NIAR 75&76 - 14

**Aidan Stennett**

# Sub-regional economic data published by the European Commission

## 1 Available data

The European Commission produce a limited amount of data that could be considered sub-regional in the sense that the Committee are interested in. That is, the majority of data produced considers Northern Ireland as a sub-region, and there are very few data sets which provide information at a smaller level.

As noted in the briefing the Committee received the Commission collects data on the Member States and their regions based upon Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics, or NUTs divisions. There are three levels of NUTs division:

- NUTs 1 – these are described as ‘major socio-economic regions’ and divide the 28 Member States into 98 regions;
- NUTs 2 divisions are described as ‘basic regions for the application of regional policies’. There are 272 NUTs regions in the EU. Northern Ireland is considered a NUTs 2 region; and

- NUTs 3 divisions are described as ‘small regions for specific diagnoses’. There are 1,315 NUTs 3 regions in the EU. Northern Ireland is broken down into five such regions:
  - Belfast;
  - Outer Belfast;
  - East of Northern Ireland;
  - North of Northern Ireland; and
  - West and South of Northern Ireland.

The Commission publishes data on the regions annual through its Eurostat Regional Yearbook (2013) (please see link in footnotes).<sup>1</sup> The majority of data collected in this publication is produced NUTs 2 level. Data included at NUTs 3 is as follows:

- GDP Per inhabitant in purchasing power standard;
- Population density;
- Population change;
- Population structure by age group;
- Young-age dependency ration;
- Old-age dependency ration;
- Density of bed places in hotels relative to land area;
- Average size of collective tourist establishments;
- Patent applications to European Patent Office;
- Share of women in the total population by urban and rural typology; and
- Share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in total population.

Significantly data on labour market, R&D spending, education and business structure are not included at NUTs 3 level.

## 2 Travel to work data

The Committee was also interested in seeing more data on public and private sector jobs by travel to work area. Data on this was collected as part of Census 2011. It is yet to be published. It is in the ‘subsequent releases’ category. Three releases of census data have occurred; a fourth is due in March 2014. ‘Subsequent release’ data will be made available after this point. So whilst this will be available in the coming months it is currently unavailable. I will monitor this and update the Committee once the data is available.

---

<sup>1</sup> Eurostat Regional Yearbook 2013 [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-HA-13-001/EN/KS-HA-13-001-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-HA-13-001/EN/KS-HA-13-001-EN.PDF)

