



Belfast



**Facts and
figures**

2018

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Belfast at a glance

NI has the highest life satisfaction rating in the UK

Office for National Statistics, 2016



Capital of NI

with a population of

339,579

in the city (over one million people in the Belfast region)



There are three airports within 90 minutes of the city centre with direct flights to over 180 destinations in 42 countries on four continents



The Belfast City Council area accounts for **18.2%** of the population and **30%** of all jobs in NI



Young population

18.6% of people are under 15 and 41.6% are under 30 years old

Significant investment



in the city over the last decade, with over 30 major developments in the last year, 25 under construction and five complete

Excellent quality of living:



affordable, high quality housing, easy access to natural assets and a renowned education system

Four major hospitals



providing the majority of regional specialist services to all of Northern Ireland





Business environment

Second fastest
growing knowledge
economy
in the UK

Knowledge Economy Report, 2017

Belfast is the driver of the NI economy



Employment area	Total jobs
 Services	202,421
 Manufacturing	9,332
 Construction	4,476
 Other	2,251



Operating costs

One of the best regional UK cities to start a new business

Start-up Cities Index, 2017

Salary costs are around **30% lower** than London, Paris and Dublin

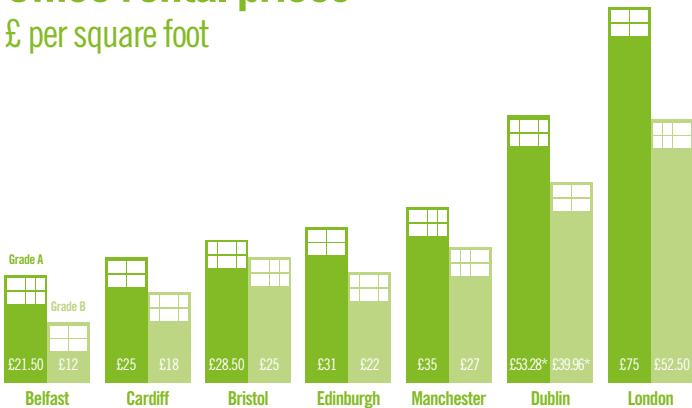


Commitment to reduce Corporation Tax

Office rental prices

£ per square foot

Source: Colliers, June 2017



*Conversion rate £1 = €1.13 (January 2018)

Investment destination

One of Europe's top
10 small cities
for FDI Strategy

Financial Times, fDi European
Cities of the Future 2018

895



international companies
located in NI, employing
over 99,000 people



34 new projects
and 1,622 new jobs
resulting from FDI to
NI in 2016-17

#2



Second most successful city in
UK (after London) at attracting US
tradeable services FDI projects



75%

of international companies
have reinvested or plan
to expand

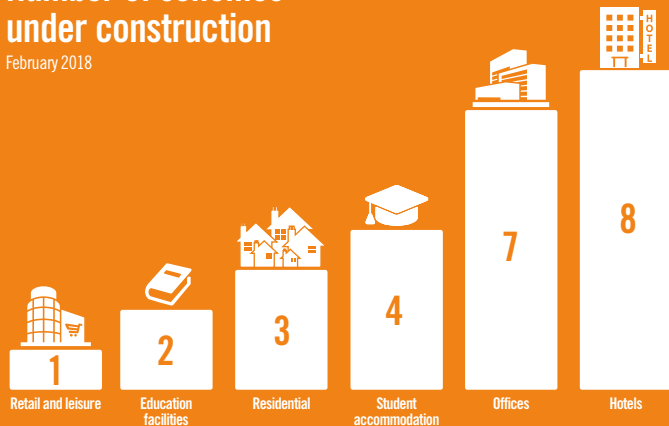
City development

Belfast is one of three UK cities with over 1,000 hotel rooms in the pipeline for 2018

Belfast Cranes Survey 2018,
Deloitte

Number of schemes under construction

February 2018



Hotel rooms



362

2017

1,088
estimated

2018

Grade A office space



20,850m²

2017

32,500m²
estimated

2018

Student accommodation rooms



563

2017

2,007
estimated

2018

Education

Six Belfast schools are
in the UK's top 100

The Sunday Times Parent Power survey of
secondary schools, 2017

Schools



Maths
1st in Europe

Primary School
TIMMS, 2016



Literacy
4th in Europe

Primary School
PIRLS, 2017

**NI was the top
performing region
in the UK for GCSEs
and A Levels in 2017**



79.5%

of NI pupils achieved
grades A* - C
(66.3% national average
grade A*-C and
equivalent grade 9-4)



30.4%

of NI pupils achieved
grades A* - A
(26.3% national average)

JCQ, 2017

Lowest monthly
student rent
price in UK

Student Living Index, 2017

Further education



30,000

students enrolled at Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC)

Universities

48,490

students at Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (UU)



QUB is a member of the prestigious Russell Group of research intensive universities



UU was in the top 3% of new universities in the world

48.9%

of NI higher education students were studying a broad STEM related subject in 2016/17

More than **70%** of university research is world leading or internationally excellent

Over a third of the working age population is educated to NVQ Level 4 or above







34%

Employment

NI has the highest proportion of start-ups reaching £1m revenues within three years

Enterprise Research Council, 2016

Sectors with high job growth expected up to 2025

	Current jobs	Projected new jobs by 2025	Change
 Information and communication	21,250	+13,407	+63%
 Professional, scientific and technical	40,000	+16,470	+41%
 Manufacturing	89,250	+9,264	+10%
 Hospitality	54,000	+6,503	+12%
 Finance and insurance	20,500	+3,754	+18%
 Retail	137,000	+2,781	+2%

55.3%
start-up
survival



69%
Belfast
employment
rate



Key growth sectors

Belfast is the world's number one destination for US FDI in cyber security

Financial Times, fDi Index 2016

We have world class capabilities in a number of key sectors



Digital and ICT

1,200 companies

28,000 employees



Advanced manufacturing materials engineering

2,000 companies

40,000 employees



Life and health sciences

130 companies

7,500 employees



#8 Aerospace

NI is Europe's 8th largest aerospace region in revenue terms



Cyber security

1,200 new cyber jobs in last five years, projected to grow to 5,000 by 2022



Software engineering

Strengths in mobile telecoms, financial software, information management, cyber security and connected health

Tourism

Voted #1 region in the world to visit in 2018

Lonely Planet, 2017



Over **1.5 million** overnight trips per year contributing £334 million to the economy (2016)



93 cruise ships carrying 110,000 passengers in 2017



#1
Titanic Belfast
world's leading tourist attraction
World Travel Awards 2016

Business visitors: **215,100** overnight business trips to Belfast (2014-2016)



Belfast Waterfront named Best Event Space in UK in 2017



77 conferences per year worth £42m to the city region



One of the top places to travel for food in the world
National Geographic, 2016

Connectivity

Belfast has a world-class digital infrastructure

Lambert, Smith and Hampton, 2017

Air

8.4 million passengers travelled through Belfast International Airport and George Best Belfast City Airport on 77 routes in 2017

Almost 200 flights to London airports weekly



Sea

23.7 million tonnes of goods and 1.5 million passengers were handled by Belfast Harbour in 2017 (70% of NI total)

514,000 freight vehicles passed through the port in 2017



Road and rail

Dublin is 90 minutes by car and there are regular bus and train services between the two cities



Digital

100-gigabite per second telecoms link between NI, Europe and North America

83% access to superfast broadband - highest in the UK

99.3% 4G broadband coverage in Belfast, with ultra-fast broadband (5G) already available in 25% of NI premises



Quality of life

Belfast is among the cities with the lowest cost of living in the world

Mercer, 2017



Happiest

region in the UK ONS 2017

£25,999
average median
wage in 2017

£123,409
average
home
price 



The city's retail
sector is made up of

54%
independents



47
parks

in the city with 17
Green Flag Awards

Over 100
festivals



every year

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Energising
Belfast