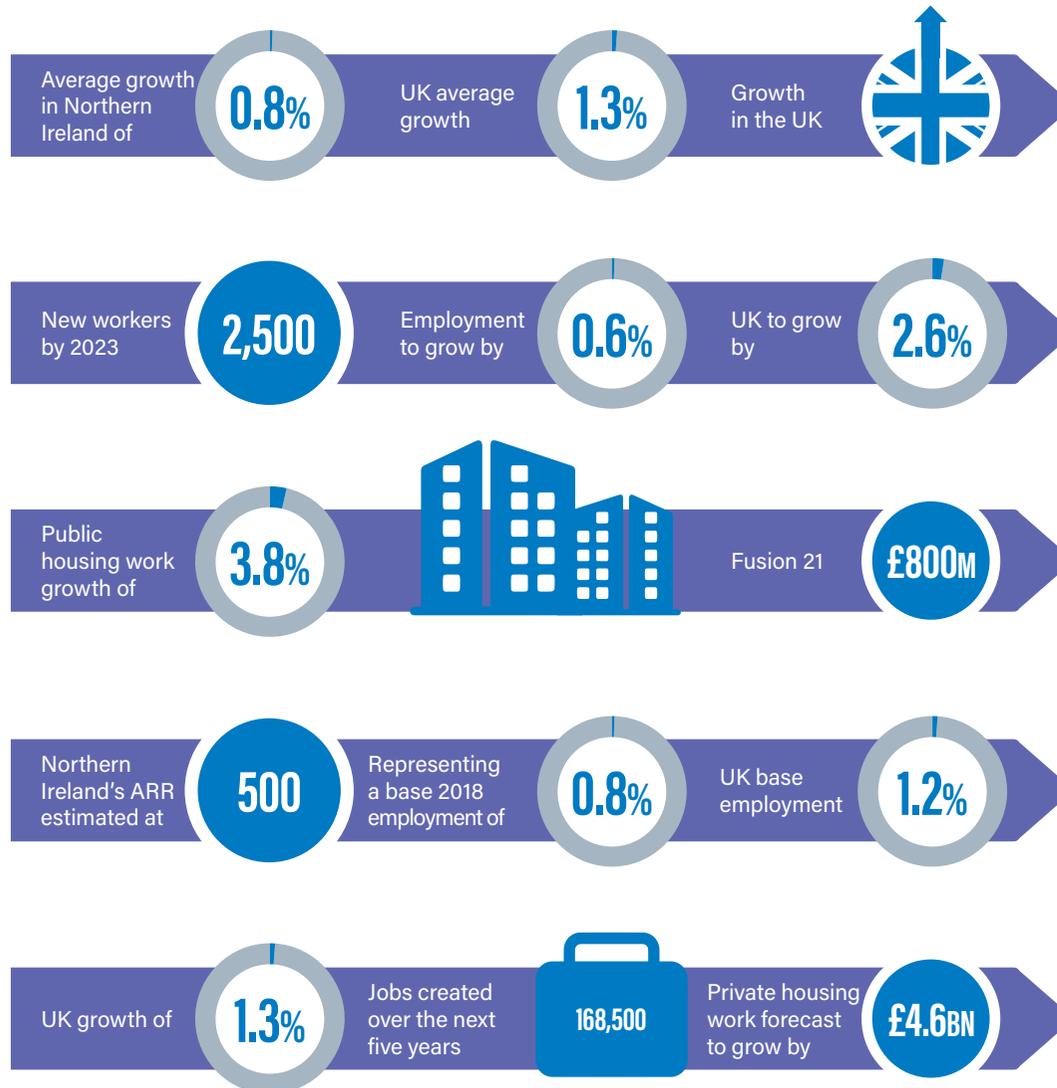
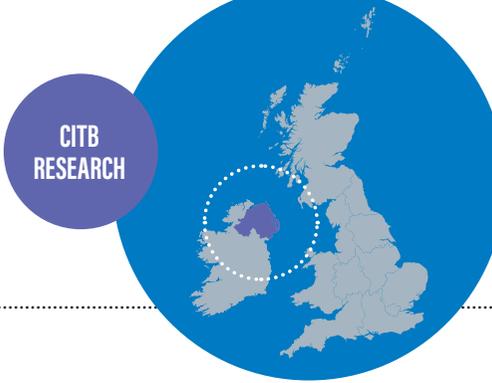


CONSTRUCTION SKILLS NETWORK NORTHERN IRELAND 2019-23



Northern Ireland will see growth of 0.8% from 2019-23. 2,500 new construction workers will be needed.

GROWTH RATE

The lack of Government in Stormont has been impacting both the economy and construction in Northern Ireland, directly through delays in the signing-off of public projects, and indirectly through loss of confidence in the private sector. However, our forecast is for construction output growth of 0.8% from 2019 to 2023, mainly driven by strong underlying demand for social housing (3.8%) along with steady output streams in the private housing sector (1.1%) and housing repair, maintenance and improvement work (3.2%).

JOB CREATION

Construction employment in the nation is also forecast to remain steady, with only a marginal average increase of 0.1%. This means that construction employment in Northern Ireland will remain around 61,000-62,000 workers between 2019 to 2023, with a slight increased demand for some managerial and professional occupations.

ANNUAL RECRUITMENT REQUIREMENT (ARR)

With output increasing slightly and employment stable, Northern Ireland will still need to recruit into the sector, as the forecast is for an average ARR for 500 new workers each year is equivalent to 0.8% of the base 2018 workforce.

MAIN GROWTH DRIVERS/CONTRACTS

Of the new work sectors, both public and private housing are likely to be the only significant drivers of overall expansion, with all work (including repair & maintenance) set to rise by just 0.8% per annum to 2023. In terms of public housing, UK procurement organisation Fusion 21 will be launching its four-year Construction Works and Improvement Framework, worth around £800m, in April 2019. The framework is designed to deliver capital programmes largely in the housing, education and health sectors. A number of projects currently in the pipeline should drive steady expansion in private housing output. Of the other sectors, recent cancellations and delays will weigh heavily on infrastructure and public non-residential output in particular.