



# An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh Central Statistics Office

## Preas Ráiteas Press Statement

### Quarterly National Accounts and Balance of Payments for Quarter 2, 2016

- ◆ GDP and GNP increased by 0.6%
- ◆ Total domestic demand increased by 9.1% driven by investment in intellectual property products
- ◆ Balance of Payments results show a current account surplus of €4.6 billion
- ◆ Details of the expert group announced

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) today (Wednesday 14th September 2016) published Quarterly National Accounts and Balance of Payments for Quarter 2, 2016. Following the level shift incorporated in National Accounts and Balance of Payments results for Ireland in Quarter 1, 2015, results are now available for six quarters at the new level.

Commenting, Jennifer Banim, Assistant Director General with responsibility for Economic Statistics said:

*“The National Accounts results show that both GDP and GNP increased by 0.6% in Q2 2016 compared with Q1 2016. Total domestic demand increased by 9.1% in the quarter, driven primarily by investment in intellectual property products imported from abroad. This increase in investment has offset the negative result for personal consumption, which decreased by 0.5% in the quarter, impacted by lower levels of car registrations.*

*Overall capital formation increased by 38.9% in Q2 2016, while personal consumption decreased by 0.5% in the quarter. Net exports (exports minus imports) declined in the quarter by 31.4%, driven by an 11.8% increase in imports and in particular the imports of intellectual property products.*

*With regard to Balance of Payments results for Q2 2016, there was a current account surplus of €4.6 billion in the quarter, a decrease on the €7.5 billion current account balance in Q2 2015, mainly as a result of increased imports of intellectual property.*

*Service exports increased by €1.7 billion to €32.3 billion for Q2 2016 compared to Q2 2015, with the increase driven largely by growth in exports of computer services. Net foreign liabilities decreased by €17bn to €488bn at end June 2016, due to redemptions in Government bonds and repayments of multinational debt.”*

More/.....



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh  
Bóthar na Sceiche Airde  
Corcaigh  
Éire

Oifig i mBaile Átha Cliath  
+353 1 4984000

Central Statistics Office  
Skehard Road  
Cork  
Ireland

Dublin Office  
+353 1 4984000



LoCall 1890 313 414 (ROI)  
0870 876 0256 (UK/NI)  
+353 21 453 5000  
+353 21 453 5555



information@cso.ie  
www.cso.ie

Commenting on the need to develop a broader suite of domestically focused indicators and information to supplement internationally agreed indicators, Ms. Banim said:

*“The small, open and highly globalised nature of the Irish economy makes it increasingly difficult to represent the complexities of economic activity in Ireland in single headline indicators such as GDP or GNP.*

*“The CSO is committed to meeting user needs and is convening an expert group that will develop recommendations on how best to meet the statistical needs of national users and provide guidance on the development of indicators that can provide the necessary insights.*

*The members of the group are:*

- ◆ *Philip Lane (Chair) - Central Bank of Ireland*
- ◆ *Alan Barrett - Economic and Social Research Institute*
- ◆ *Seamus Coffey - University College Cork*
- ◆ *Thomas Conefrey - Irish Fiscal Advisory Committee*
- ◆ *John Fitzgerald - Trinity College Dublin, Irish Times*
- ◆ *John McCarthy - Department of Finance*
- ◆ *Dan O'Brien - Institute of International and European Affairs in Dublin, Irish Independent*
- ◆ *Fergal O'Brien – IBEC*
- ◆ *Frances Ruane – Trinity College Dublin, European Statistical Advisory Committee*
- ◆ *Marie Sherlock - SIPTU*
- ◆ *Rossa White – National Treasury Management Agency*
- ◆ *Jennifer Banim and Michael Connolly – Central Statistics Office*
- ◆ *Eurostat and IMF - International observers*

*The group will meet between September and November 2016 and will report to the Director General of the CSO. The report of the group will be published and will be available on [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie) along with the CSO's response to the report.”*

**For further information contact:**

Jennifer Banim on 01 498 4205  
National Accounts  
Central Statistics Office  
Ardee Road  
Dublin 6

**E-mail:** [nat\\_acc@cso.ie](mailto:nat_acc@cso.ie)

**Website:** [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

**Links:**

**Quarterly National Accounts Quarter 2 2016 Release**

<http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/na/quarterlynationalaccountsquarter22016/>

**Balance of International Payments Quarter 2 2016 Release**

<http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/bop/balanceofinternationalpaymentsq22016/>

**Q2 2016 Quarterly National Accounts & Balance of Payments Press Briefing Slides**

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/newsevents/presentations/qnabopq216p.pdf>

**National Accounts and Balance of Payments FAQ for Q2 2016**

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/newsevents/presentations/nabopqaq216.pdf>