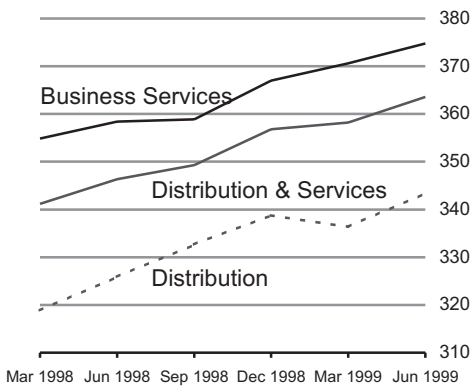




Earnings in Distribution and Business Services

June 1999 (Provisional)

Average Weekly Earnings (£)



Average Full-Time Weekly Earnings

	June 1998	June 1999	Annual Change
	£	£	%
Distribution & Business Services	346.35	363.59	+5.0
Distribution	325.89	343.36	+5.4
Business Services	358.42	374.79	+4.6

New Series shows 5% increase in average weekly earnings

This new CSO Release shows that average weekly earnings of full-time employees in enterprises with five or more persons engaged in the distribution and business services sectors was £363.59 in June 1999, compared with £346.35 in June 1998, an increase of 5.0% in the year. *See Table 1.*

Average weekly earnings in the distribution sector were £343.36 in June 1999, compared with a June 1998 level of £325.89.

Business services average weekly earnings were £374.79, up from £358.42 in June 1998.

The breakdown of earnings into the different sub-sectors shows:

- ◆ The highest average weekly earnings were recorded in the Post and Telecommunications sub-sector, with a level of £502.73 in June 1999, compared with £492.21 in June 1998.
- ◆ The lowest average weekly earnings were in the Accommodation and Catering sub-sector, at £238.14 in June 1999, following a June 1998 level of £223.26.

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Table 1 Average Weekly Earnings for Full-time Employees in enterprises with 5 or more persons engaged -

Distribution and Business Services

NACE Code	Sector	1998					1999	
		March	June	Sept.	Dec.	Year	March	June
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Distribution & Business Services:	341.17	346.35	349.27	356.78	348.39	358.22	363.59
	Distribution:	318.84	325.89	332.66	338.76	329.04	336.35	343.36
50	Motor Trade	284.04	286.03	293.41	291.98	288.87	298.21	305.59
51	Wholesale Trade	361.93	367.11	372.96	382.46	371.12	378.61	386.80
52	Retail Trade	303.78	312.04	320.08	326.24	315.54	323.06	331.28
	Business Services:	354.85	358.42	358.90	367.01	359.80	370.64	374.79
55	Accommodation & Catering	217.43	223.26	228.33	232.94	225.49	235.80	238.14
60	Land Transport	331.12	341.57	347.64	359.00	344.83	361.14	360.13
61-63	Other Transport activity	392.18	394.57	398.47	405.63	397.71	400.39	394.76
64	Post & Telecommunications	487.25	492.21	491.10	487.04	489.40	487.62	502.73
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	330.29	333.53	339.91	339.82	335.89	347.41	355.12
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	411.84	417.60	419.97	425.94	418.84	430.96	437.35
74	Other Business activity	358.27	362.90	367.47	375.54	366.05	376.10	382.73

Table 2 Average Weekly Earnings (Euro currency)¹ for Full-time Employees in enterprises with 5 or more persons engaged - Distribution and Business Services

		1998					1999		Euro
NACE Code	Sector	March	June	Sept.	Dec.	Year	March	June	
	Distribution & Business Services:	433.20	439.77	443.48	453.02	442.37	454.85	461.66	
	Distribution:	404.84	413.79	422.39	430.14	417.79	427.08	435.98	
50	Motor Trade	360.66	363.18	372.55	370.74	366.78	378.65	388.02	
51	Wholesale Trade	459.56	466.13	473.56	485.62	471.22	480.74	491.13	
52	Retail Trade	385.72	396.21	406.42	414.24	400.65	410.20	420.64	
	Business Services:	450.57	455.10	455.71	466.01	456.85	470.62	475.89	
55	Accommodation & Catering	276.08	283.48	289.92	295.77	286.31	299.40	302.38	
60	Land Transport	420.44	433.70	441.41	455.84	437.85	458.55	457.27	
61-63	Other Transport activity	497.97	501.00	505.95	515.04	504.99	508.39	501.24	
64	Post & Telecommunications	618.68	624.98	623.57	618.41	621.41	619.15	638.34	
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	419.38	423.50	431.60	431.48	426.49	441.12	450.91	
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	522.93	530.24	533.25	540.83	531.81	547.21	555.32	
74	Other Business activity	454.91	460.79	466.59	476.84	464.78	477.55	485.97	

¹ Converted at the EU official exchange rate conversionfactor, fixed at 0.787564, effective from 1 January 1999

Background Notes

Introduction This Release details average weekly earnings of full-time employees in the Distribution and Business Services sectors. The series are derived from quarterly inquiries to enterprises, conducted under the Statistics (Business Accounts) Order, 1996, made under the Statistics Act 1993.

The total number of persons engaged in the Distribution and Services sectors in the first quarter of 1998 was estimated as 507,600 by the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). Some 302,900 were full-time employees (Table A in the Appendix). Early analysis showed that it would not be possible to derive reliable earnings estimates for part-time employees or for small enterprises with less than 5 persons engaged[†]. These have been excluded from the current release.

The new series, therefore, covers full-time employees in enterprises with 5 or more persons engaged, about 272,100 persons in March-May of 1999. The survey collects details of the number of full-time employees (defined as persons working 30 or more hours per week) and their total wages. The number of hours worked was not sought, nor was any breakdown by gender or employment activity.

Scope The activity classification used is the NACE Rev. 1 classification. The survey relates to a week in the months of March, June, September and December. It covers a sample of enterprises in the Distribution sector (NACE divisions 50 to 52), and NACE divisions 55, 60 to 64, and 70 to 74 of the Business Services sector. The target sample size is approximately 25% of the total number of enterprises with 5 or more persons engaged.

Methodology Using the CSO Business Register, the sample in each quarter is classified into cells defined by NACE division and employment size. March 1998 was taken as the base period and average earnings per person per week were computed, from the survey returns, for each cell. These cell averages were then weighted by the corresponding estimated full-time employment to derive the average earnings at divisional and higher levels. The employment figures used for this weighting were the QNHS estimates for the December 1997 – February 1998 quarter, allocated to size classes using the Business Register.

For each subsequent quarter, a matched sample of enterprises making returns in both the current quarter and the previous quarter was used. The average weekly earnings in each cell of the matched sample for both quarters were computed. The quarter-on-quarter matched sample change in average weekly earnings in each cell was then applied to the average weekly earnings for the cell in the previous quarter, to produce the average weekly earnings for the cell in the current quarter. These cell averages were then weighted by QNHS-based full-time employment estimates for the current quarter to produce average earnings at divisional and higher levels.

Tables B and C in the Appendix show the number of full-time employees and the number of enterprises, respectively, covered by returns used to compile the average weekly earnings figures in each period since March 1998. These show that returns covering 127,200 full-time employees in 2,900 enterprises were used to estimate the average weekly earnings in the March 1998 base period. The subsequent changes from quarter to quarter are based on matched returns from between 1,512 and 2,332 enterprises, covering between 91,600 and 109,100 full-time employees.

[†] In the second quarter of 1999 there are an estimated 71,200 full-time employees in these enterprises and rough indications are that including them would result in the overall average weekly earnings figures being reduced by approximately £ 20. It is hoped that increasing the sample size and improved response rates may permit the inclusion of this group at some later stage.

Definitions **Employee**

An employee is defined as any person working in the enterprise who is paid a definite wage or salary. Full-time employees are employees who work 30 or more hours per week.

Earnings

Earnings represent the gross amount (before the deduction of tax, PRSI, superannuation, etc.) payable to employees. Earnings include normal wages and salaries and overtime, taxable allowances, regular bonuses and commissions, as well as holiday pay and sick pay. Excluded from earnings are back-pay, redundancy pay, irregular bonuses (incl. annual bonuses), advances of pay, expenses, employers PRSI, and any earnings paid at irregular intervals.

Enterprise

An enterprise is defined as the smallest legally independent business unit. It may be comprised of one or more local units or branches.

Appendix

Table A Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) Employment Estimates¹ for Distribution and Services

NACE Code	Sector	Persons Engaged		Full-time Employees		Full-time Employees in Enterprises with 5+ Persons Engaged ²	
		Q1 1998	Q2 1999	Q1 1998	Q2 1999	Q1 1998	Q2 1999
	Distribution & Business Services:	507,600	556,600	302,900	343,300	240,500	272,100
	Distribution:	214,100	223,400	121,600	129,500	91,300	96,900
50	Motor Trade	32,900	34,800	19,900	21,800	14,200	15,600
51	Wholesale Trade	47,100	46,500	34,000	33,800	28,500	28,300
52	Retail Trade	134,100	142,100	67,700	73,900	48,600	53,000
	Business Services:	293,500	333,200	181,300	213,800	149,200	175,200
55	Accommodation & Catering	94,700	102,600	43,800	50,200	33,500	38,300
60	Land Transport	33,100	38,100	18,800	22,700	15,100	18,300
61-63	Other Transport activity	23,500	26,600	20,400	22,800	18,900	21,200
64	Post & Telecommunications	29,200	31,300	24,700	27,200	23,700	26,100
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	8,300	11,500	4,700	7,300	2,600	4,100
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	25,300	32,300	21,800	27,900	18,700	24,000
74	Other Business activity	79,400	90,800	47,100	55,700	36,600	43,300

¹ QNHS employment estimates for December - February and March - May used for Q1 and Q2, respectively

² QNHS estimates, adjusted using CSO Business Register

Table B The number of full-time employees covered by returns used in calculating the average weekly earnings

NACE Code	Sector	1998				1999	
		March	June	Sept.	Dec.	March	June
	Distribution & Business Services:	127,151	109,124	100,095	99,943	91,595	97,018
	Distribution:	38,700	31,954	29,857	29,844	24,492	25,468
50	Motor Trade	4,462	3,459	3,562	3,354	2,592	2,708
51	Wholesale Trade	13,998	12,851	12,530	13,426	10,452	11,136
52	Retail Trade	20,240	15,644	13,765	13,064	11,448	11,624
	Business Services:	88,451	77,170	70,238	70,099	67,103	71,550
55	Accommodation & Catering	19,151	14,678	11,088	10,718	9,522	10,023
60	Land Transport	11,821	11,402	9,544	9,317	9,039	11,057
61-63	Other Transport activity	9,767	8,542	8,188	8,254	7,725	8,725
64	Post & Telecommunications	21,291	21,126	21,685	21,454	22,004	21,262
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	2,697	2,201	2,303	2,458	1,965	2,184
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	5,657	4,998	4,145	2,998	3,295	4,193
74	Other Business activity	18,067	14,223	13,285	14,900	13,553	14,106

Table C The number of enterprises covered by returns used in calculating the average weekly earnings

NACE Code	Sector	1998				1999	
		March	June	Sept.	Dec.	March	June
	Distribution & Business Services:	2,903	2,332	2,200	2,265	1,512	1,743
	Distribution:	1,377	1,132	1,000	1,022	609	731
50	Motor Trade	231	179	191	190	119	133
51	Wholesale Trade	384	334	329	366	215	255
52	Retail Trade	762	619	480	466	275	343
	Business Services:	1,526	1,200	1,200	1,243	903	1,012
55	Accommodation & Catering	566	436	472	463	375	407
60	Land Transport	105	83	71	72	52	59
61-63	Other Transport activity	106	86	74	73	64	73
64	Post & Telecommunications	31	25	25	24	18	22
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	108	89	80	86	30	39
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	96	77	65	63	41	61
74	Other Business activity	514	404	413	462	323	351