



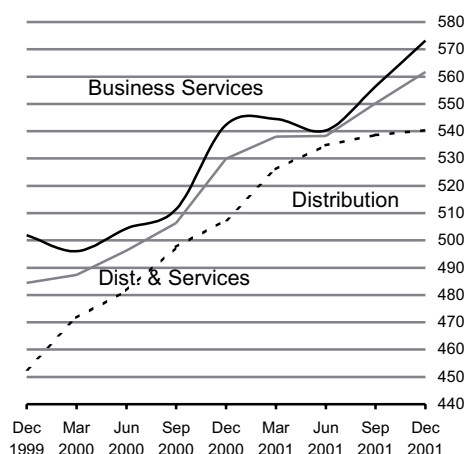
Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

3 May 2002

Earnings in Distribution and Business Services

December 2001 First Estimates

Average Weekly Earnings (€)



Average Full-Time Weekly Earnings

	December 2000	December 2001	Annual Change
	€	€	%
Distribution & Business Services	529.98	561.68	+6.0
Distribution	507.51	540.31	+6.5
Business Services	542.32	573.16	+5.7

Average weekly earnings up by 6.0% in December 2001

The average weekly earnings of full-time employees in enterprises with five or more persons engaged in the distribution and business services sectors were €561.68 in December 2001, compared with €529.98 in December 2000, an increase of 6.0% in the year. *See Table 1 & graph.*

Average weekly earnings in the distribution sector were €540.31 in December 2001, compared with a December 2000 level of €507.51, an increase of 6.5% in the year. *See Table 1.*

In the business services sector, average weekly earnings increased by 5.7% in the year, from €542.32 in December 2000 to €573.16 in December 2001. *See Table 1.*

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 €803.56 in December 2001.
- ◆ The lowest average weekly earnings were in the Accommodation and Catering sub-sector, at €339.14 in December 2001.

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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	1999		2000				2001				
		Year	March	June	Sept.	Dec.	Year	March	June	Sept. ¹	Dec.	Year
		€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
	Distribution & Business Services:	466.20	487.38	496.28	506.42	529.98	505.01	538.00	538.29	550.17	561.68	547.04
	Distribution:	440.46	471.61	481.64	497.57	507.51	489.59	526.04	534.80	538.63	540.31	534.93
50	Motor Trade	391.32	419.50	430.83	433.63	438.03	430.50	456.20	470.62	467.48	471.82	466.48
51	Wholesale Trade	489.61	514.69	516.11	531.60	546.38	527.20	557.10	551.38	569.37	622.51	575.07
52	Retail Trade	427.89	462.92	478.78	498.22	508.29	487.06	530.98	545.48	543.62	515.48	533.90
	Business Services:	480.55	495.99	504.35	511.41	542.32	513.52	544.53	540.20	556.38	573.16	553.68
55	Accommodation & Catering	303.81	310.02	313.79	327.49	336.75	322.02	338.30	337.04	345.23	339.14	339.85
60	Land Transport	464.44	482.06	497.28	497.79	534.19	502.83	553.77	539.60	548.27	559.34	550.30
61-63	Other Transport Activity	508.85	519.08	533.57	535.08	554.85	535.65	575.01	565.06	605.80	630.43	594.07
64	Post & Telecommunications	646.53	632.79	638.87	663.45	753.13	672.06	697.10	701.39	736.71	803.56	734.67
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	451.56	466.24	482.82	499.55	502.00	487.66	518.81	521.12	549.15	568.22	539.37
72-73	Computing Activity, R & D	563.61	601.50	610.77	617.02	626.43	613.93	643.03	625.26	661.25	641.01	642.63
74	Other Business Activity	491.64	513.79	526.76	539.82	559.03	534.84	566.80	567.54	581.28	587.22	575.76

1 Revised

Table 2 Summary of Average Weekly Earnings in Distribution and Business Services

	Distribution & Business Services	Distribution	Business Services
	€	€	€
1998 Year	442.36	417.79	456.85
1999 Year	466.20	440.46	480.55
2000 Year	505.01	489.59	513.52
2001 Year	547.04	534.93	553.68
1998 1st quarter	433.20	404.84	450.57
2nd quarter	439.77	413.79	455.10
3rd quarter	443.48	422.39	455.71
4th quarter	453.02	430.14	466.01
1999 1st quarter	454.85	427.08	470.62
2nd quarter	460.66	437.08	473.71
3rd quarter	464.80	444.88	475.90
4th quarter	484.46	452.80	501.93
2000 1st quarter	487.38	471.61	495.99
2nd quarter	496.28	481.64	504.35
3rd quarter	506.42	497.57	511.41
4th quarter	529.98	507.51	542.32
2001 1st quarter	538.00	526.04	544.53
2nd quarter	538.29	534.80	540.20
3rd quarter	550.17	538.63	556.38
4th quarter	561.68	540.31	573.16

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, 2001, made under the Statistics Act 1993.

The numbers of persons engaged in the Distribution and Services sectors, as estimated by the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), are shown in 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 series, therefore, covers full-time employees in enterprises with 5 or more persons engaged. 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 size-class details from 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 2000.

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.

[†] Initial indications were that including enterprises with less than 5 persons engaged would result in the overall average full-time weekly earnings figures being reduced by approximately €25.39.

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	
		Q4 2000	Q4 2001	Q4 2000	Q4 2001	Q4 2000	Q4 2001
	Distribution & Business Services:	604,400	620,800	384,000	395,200	304,000	313,200
	Distribution:	242,800	245,600	144,000	146,000	108,000	109,600
50	Motor Trade	39,600	36,400	26,000	24,000	18,400	17,200
51	Wholesale Trade	52,000	51,200	38,000	38,800	32,000	32,400
52	Retail Trade	151,200	158,000	80,400	83,600	57,600	60,000
	Business Services:	361,600	375,200	240,000	249,200	196,400	204,000
55	Accommodation & Catering	110,000	109,200	57,200	58,400	43,600	44,800
60	Land Transport	41,200	45,200	24,400	26,400	19,600	21,200
61-63	Other Transport Activity	29,200	29,600	25,600	25,200	23,600	23,200
64	Post & Telecommunications	34,400	36,400	30,400	30,800	29,200	29,600
70-71	Real Estate,Renting of Machinery	12,400	10,800	7,600	7,600	4,400	4,400
72-73	Computing Activity, R & D	33,600	38,400	28,800	32,800	24,800	28,000
74	Other Business Activity	100,400	106,000	66,000	68,400	51,200	53,200

¹ QNHS employment estimates for period September -November

² QNHS estimates, adjusted using size class details from the CSO Business Register

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

NACE Code	Sector	2000				2001			
		Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept. ¹	Dec
	Distribution & Business Services:	99,938	99,372	122,619	131,734	136,539	141,680	139,367	119,623
	Distribution:	26,847	25,082	35,249	39,277	41,297	41,498	39,694	34,097
50	Motor Trade	3,206	2,357	3,093	3,977	4,094	5,140	4,496	3,152
51	Wholesale Trade	10,306	10,260	11,787	13,385	14,397	14,867	14,326	13,697
52	Retail Trade	13,335	12,465	20,369	21,915	22,806	21,491	20,872	17,248
	Business Services:	73,091	74,290	87,370	92,457	95,242	100,182	99,673	85,526
55	Accommodation & Catering	11,087	8,391	13,162	13,732	13,916	15,960	15,423	12,386
60	Land Transport	11,002	11,040	11,636	12,199	12,697	13,176	13,608	6,834
61-63	Other Transport activity	10,039	11,956	14,232	13,682	14,486	15,204	15,948	14,318
64	Post & Telecommunications	21,608	20,811	21,507	22,967	23,800	23,511	22,078	22,158
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	1,813	1,364	1,687	1,924	2,355	2,950	2,608	2,703
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	5,076	5,379	5,762	6,892	6,898	9,247	8,983	6,952
74	Other Business activity	12,466	15,349	19,384	21,061	21,090	20,134	21,025	20,175

¹ Revised

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

NACE Code	Sector	2000				2001			
		Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept. ¹	Dec
	Distribution & Business Services:	1,550	1,537	1,801	2,174	2,089	2,281	1,992	1,960
	Distribution:	764	643	769	971	928	1,014	905	851
50	Motor Trade	145	113	143	178	168	180	163	149
51	Wholesale Trade	275	242	277	340	336	357	309	283
52	Retail Trade	344	288	349	453	424	477	433	419
	Business Services:	786	894	1,032	1,203	1,161	1,267	1,087	1,109
55	Accommodation & Catering	304	348	418	462	432	447	369	378
60	Land Transport	42	43	50	68	64	69	65	61
61-63	Other Transport activity	50	53	59	63	73	78	71	72
64	Post & Telecommunications	17	16	13	17	19	25	21	27
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	28	29	37	50	48	69	67	78
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	64	68	72	88	93	108	111	102
74	Other Business activity	281	337	383	455	432	471	383	391

¹
Revised