

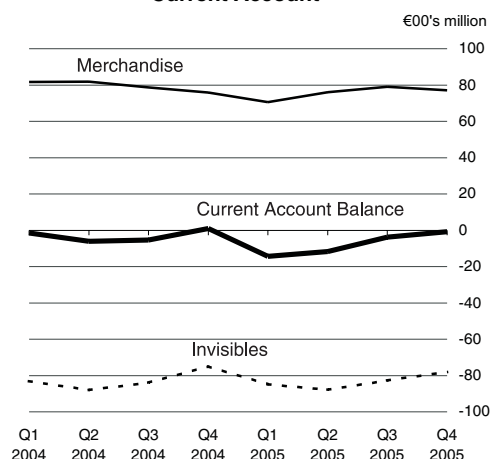


Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

30 March 2006

Balance of International Payments Quarter 4 and Year 2005

Current Account



€ million

	Merchandise Balance	Invisibles Balance	Current Account Balance
Q4 2005	7,718	-7,805	-88
Q4 2004	7,590	-7,489	101
Year 2005	30,276	-33,354	-3,079
Year 2004	31,812	-32,993	-1,181

Marginal current account deficit in 4th Quarter

The fourth quarter of 2005 showed a marginal current account deficit of €88m. This compared to a small surplus (€101m) in the same quarter of 2004 but continued the trend of reducing deficits during 2005. For 2005 as a whole, the deficit of €3,079m was almost €1.9 billion higher than that for 2004 (€1,181m) - see Table 1. The fourth quarter 2005 *merchandise* surplus of €7,718m was up €128m on that for the same quarter in 2004 while the deficit on *services* at €2,474m was €266m higher. Net factor income outflows at €6,153m increased by €492m on the corresponding figure in 2004. For 2005 as a whole, the *merchandise* surplus of €30,276m was down about €1.5 billion on 2004, while the *services* deficit at €9,967m was €246m higher. Net factor income outflows of €23,958m were €380m higher than the corresponding figure for 2004.

Other points of note in the fourth quarter 2005 results are:

Current account (see Table 2a)

- ◆ *Merchandise* exports of €22,637m were almost €2.2 billion higher than for the same quarter in 2004; imports at €14,919m were just over €2 billion higher.
- ◆ *Services* exports at €11,750m were almost €0.5 billion higher than for the same period in 2004, the increase being largely due to higher receipts from *operational leasing*, *computer services*, and *financial services*. Imports of services increased by almost €0.8 billion to €14,225m, mostly due to increases in *tourism and travel*, *financial services* and *miscellaneous business services*.
- ◆ Profit outflows at €7,869m were over €500m higher compared to one year earlier. *Dividends and distributed branch profits* increased to €8,999m.
- ◆ *Current transfers* receipts at €2,366m were €700m higher than in the fourth quarter 2004, largely due to increased EU FEOGA payments.

Financial account (see Table 2b)

- ◆ A significant inflow of *direct investment* equity (€6,077m) occurred in the fourth quarter, more than offsetting earlier withdrawals of equity. However, increased dividend payments (see above) which were partly funded from earlier profits earned reduced somewhat the impact of the equity inflow in the quarter.
- ◆ Foreign owned financial direct investment enterprises in Ireland continued to make significant loan advances to their foreign affiliates, an outflow of €17.5 billion being recorded in the fourth quarter under *direct investment/other capital*.
- ◆ Sizeable portfolio investment liabilities of €22,420m relating to issues of *money market instruments* were incurred in the fourth quarter. Some IFSC banks and treasury operations largely accounted for these short-term paper issues.

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Table 1a – Summary of Current and Capital Account Balances

€ million

Period		Merchandise ¹	Invisibles				Balance on Current Account	Balance on Capital Account
			Services	Income	Current Transfers	Total		
1998	Year	17,510	-8,820	-9,382	1,319	-16,883	627	840
1999	Year	22,170	-10,176	-12,945	1,177	-21,944	226	560
2000	Year	27,266	-13,889	-14,750	994	-27,645	-379	1182
2001	Year	30,494	-13,259	-18,295	305	-31,249	-757	703
2002	Year	35,442	-13,779	-23,664	707	-36,736	-1,295	512
2003	Year	32,604	-11,091	-21,947	432	-32,606	-2	93
2004	Year	31,812	-9,721	-23,578	306	-32,993	-1,181	401
2005	Year	30,276	-9,967	-23,958	571	-33,354	-3,079	309
1998	Quarter 1	3,823	-2,184	-2,071	259	-3,996	-173	91
	Quarter 2	4,130	-1,845	-2,418	404	-3,859	271	39
	Quarter 3	4,883	-1,908	-2,698	235	-4,371	512	336
	Quarter 4	4,675	-2,882	-2,195	422	-4,655	20	374
1999	Quarter 1	4,915	-2,548	-2,581	277	-4,852	63	133
	Quarter 2	5,131	-2,492	-2,987	342	-5,137	-6	40
	Quarter 3	6,114	-2,516	-3,792	163	-6,145	-31	4
	Quarter 4	6,010	-2,621	-3,585	395	-5,811	199	383
2000	Quarter 1	5,457	-2,887	-3,326	324	-5,889	-432	300
	Quarter 2	6,447	-3,188	-3,007	253	-5,942	505	192
	Quarter 3	7,351	-3,406	-4,091	-92	-7,589	-238	-12
	Quarter 4	8,011	-4,408	-4,326	509	-8,225	-214	702
2001	Quarter 1	6,771	-3,413	-3,929	64	-7,278	-508	300
	Quarter 2	8,089	-3,354	-4,748	-13	-8,115	-26	76
	Quarter 3	8,085	-3,085	-4,816	-57	-7,958	126	9
	Quarter 4	7,549	-3,407	-4,802	311	-7,898	-349	318
2002	Quarter 1	8,977	-3,845	-5,837	-36	-9,718	-741	-14
	Quarter 2	8,598	-3,683	-6,290	131	-9,842	-1,244	2
	Quarter 3	9,265	-3,493	-5,529	-68	-9,090	174	9
	Quarter 4	8,602	-2,758	-6,008	680	-8,086	516	515
2003	Quarter 1	7,622	-2,472	-5,815	-89	-8,376	-753	0
	Quarter 2	8,421	-2,747	-5,634	48	-8,333	88	-38
	Quarter 3	8,338	-3,084	-5,061	-89	-8,234	103	-192
	Quarter 4	8,223	-2,788	-5,437	562	-7,663	560	323
2004	Quarter 1	8,167	-2,354	-5,872	-82	-8,308	-141	5
	Quarter 2	8,188	-2,447	-6,392	42	-8,797	-609	-30
	Quarter 3	7,867	-2,712	-5,653	-34	-8,399	-532	59
	Quarter 4	7,590	-2,208	-5,661	380	-7,489	101	367
2005	Quarter 1	7,054	-2,677	-5,575	-240	-8,492	-1,439	81
	Quarter 2	7,605	-2,050	-6,949	223	-8,776	-1,171	30
	Quarter 3	7,899	-2,766	-5,281	-234	-8,281	-381	13
	Quarter 4	7,718	-2,474	-6,153	822	-7,805	-88	185

¹ Adjusted for balance of payment purposes

Table 1b – Summary of Financial Account Balances and Net Errors and Omissions € million

Period		Direct Investment	Portfolio Investment	Other ¹ Investment	Reserve Assets	Balance on Financial Account	Net errors and omissions
1998	Year	4,422	-8,466	7,459	-2,280	1,135	-2,602
1999	Year	11,359	-14,342	-974	1,746	-2,211	1,425
2000	Year	22,957	-5,358	-9,037	-142	8,420	-9,223
2001	Year	6,241	-25,158	19,039	-441	-319	372
2002	Year	19,444	-37,979	19,263	343	1,070	-287
2003	Year	15,270	-39,977	21,567	1,770	-1,372	1,280
2004	Year	-3,739	-5,705	13,699	1,177	5,431	-4,652
2005	Year	-28,716	44,395	-14,028	1,473	3,125	-354
1998	Quarter 1	1,497	-1,255	1,939	-165	2,016	-1,935
	Quarter 2	1,965	-1,301	106	-1,011	-241	-67
	Quarter 3	2,393	-5,411	4,245	-333	894	-1,741
	Quarter 4	-1,433	-498	1,169	-771	-1,533	1,140
1999	Quarter 1	4,215	-4,805	884	1,887	2,181	-2,377
	Quarter 2	2,019	-5,227	-1,734	-93	-5,035	5,001
	Quarter 3	3,789	-4,390	-12	13	-600	627
	Quarter 4	1,336	79	-112	-61	1,242	-1,824
2000	Quarter 1	2,317	-5,222	3,728	39	862	-730
	Quarter 2	6,184	4,761	-7,128	-55	3,762	-4,459
	Quarter 3	6,819	-5,814	2,652	-38	3,619	-3,369
	Quarter 4	7,636	917	-8,289	-88	176	-664
2001	Quarter 1	-403	1,851	-3,318	-67	-1,937	2,145
	Quarter 2	4,368	-6,594	3,774	-199	1,349	-1,399
	Quarter 3	1,960	-11,644	11,067	-45	1,338	-1,474
	Quarter 4	316	-8,771	7,516	-130	-1,069	1,100
2002	Quarter 1	6,205	-13,891	9,680	265	2,258	-1,503
	Quarter 2	1,379	941	-2,345	236	211	1,032
	Quarter 3	8,473	-11,496	4,692	-130	1,539	-1,723
	Quarter 4	3,387	-13,533	7,236	-28	-2,938	1,907
2003	Quarter 1	4,065	-8,773	3,197	1,818	308	445
	Quarter 2	11,407	-10,431	-1,876	-43	-943	893
	Quarter 3	3,830	-23,201	18,913	-84	-544	633
	Quarter 4	-4,032	2,428	1,333	79	-193	-691
2004	Quarter 1	1,930	23	-3,976	1,189	-834	970
	Quarter 2	-1,847	6,096	-3,662	135	722	-84
	Quarter 3	3,022	-6,945	6,875	-129	2,822	-2,349
	Quarter 4	-6,844	-4,879	14,462	-18	2,721	-3,189
2005	Quarter 1	1,216	2,058	-5,731	48	-2,408	3,766
	Quarter 2	-822	-5,340	10,769	69	4,675	-3,534
	Quarter 3	-13,993	24,606	-11,838	11	-1,213	1,582
	Quarter 4	-15,117	23,071	-7,228	1,345	2,071	-2,168

¹ Including financial derivatives and trade credits

Table 2a – Current and Capital Accounts

€ million

Item		2004	2005	2004				2005			
		Year		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Current Account											
Merchandise ¹	Cr	80,229	82,798	19,889	20,430	19,441	20,469	19,457	20,703	20,001	22,637
	Db	48,417	52,522	11,722	12,242	11,574	12,879	12,403	13,098	12,102	14,919
Services	Cr	42,203	43,304	9,534	10,951	10,456	11,262	9,596	10,797	11,161	11,750
	Db	51,923	53,273	11,888	13,398	13,168	13,469	12,274	12,847	13,927	14,225
Transport	Cr	1,895	2,136	359	492	620	424	409	569	708	450
	Db	1,788	1,921	435	458	427	468	465	483	446	527
Tourism and Travel ²	Cr	3,445	3,674	564	934	1,209	738	590	967	1,303	814
	Db	4,181	4,671	767	1,049	1,523	842	795	1,131	1,710	1,035
Communications	Cr	761	738	198	184	178	201	189	185	188	176
	Db	985	873	244	261	239	241	209	221	222	221
Insurance	Cr	8,166	6,606	1,998	2,030	1,841	2,297	1,636	1,549	1,643	1,778
	Db	6,325	5,494	1,483	1,699	1,474	1,669	1,461	1,087	1,499	1,447
Financial services	Cr	4,048	4,298	916	1,057	992	1,083	982	978	1,090	1,248
	Db	2,028	2,291	507	517	506	498	521	475	667	628
Computer services ³	Cr	14,972	15,142	3,319	4,038	3,439	4,176	3,531	3,840	3,381	4,390
	Db	293	324	70	78	69	76	79	78	80	87
Royalties/Licences	Cr	177	239	64	35	30	48	47	61	53	78
	Db	14,848	14,312	3,456	3,899	3,721	3,772	3,491	3,602	3,495	3,724
Business services	Cr	8,141	9,762	1,966	2,032	1,997	2,146	2,060	2,463	2,609	2,630
	Db	21,303	23,219	4,876	5,396	5,168	5,863	5,212	5,728	5,766	6,513
Trade related	Cr	3,235	3,282	753	767	777	938	758	844	851	829
	Db	10,666	11,140	2,534	2,531	2,520	3,081	2,684	2,703	2,619	3,134
Operational leasing	Cr	2,083	3,102	504	498	552	529	496	712	928	966
	Db	126	189	27	35	31	33	38	44	51	56
Misc. business services ⁴	Cr	2,823	3,380	709	767	668	679	806	907	831	836
	Db	10,512	11,891	2,316	2,829	2,618	2,749	2,490	2,982	3,096	3,323
Other services n.e.s.	Cr	600	708	151	149	150	150	152	184	186	186
	Db	172	165	49	41	41	41	40	40	42	43

Table 2a – Current and Capital Accounts - continued

€ million

Item		2004	2005	2004				2005			
		Year		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Current Account - continued											
Income	Cr	33,783	40,580	7,630	8,409	8,854	8,890	8,764	9,928	10,785	11,103
	Db	57,360	64,537	13,502	14,800	14,507	14,551	14,339	16,877	16,066	17,255
Compensation of Employees	Cr	269	274	59	59	92	59	59	60	94	61
	Db	477	529	116	120	122	119	139	126	127	137
Investment Income	Cr	33,514	40,307	7,571	8,350	8,762	8,831	8,705	9,868	10,692	11,042
	Db	56,883	64,008	13,386	14,680	14,385	14,432	14,200	16,750	15,939	17,119
Direct investment income	Cr	5,372	5,601	1,091	1,213	1,446	1,622	1,215	1,305	1,488	1,593
	Db	32,431	32,439	7,788	8,819	8,056	7,768	7,479	9,204	7,343	8,413
Income on equity	Cr	3,835	4,009	657	793	1,135	1,250	694	844	1,205	1,266
	Db	30,883	30,506	7,414	8,450	7,692	7,327	6,992	8,769	6,876	7,869
Dividends & distributed											
branch profits	Cr	1,026	*	28	*	*	58	32	49	52	*
	Db	21,738	24,445	2,523	9,475	3,772	5,968	3,950	3,740	7,756	8,999
Reinvested earnings	Cr	2,809	*	630	*	*	1,192	663	795	1,153	*
	Db	9,145	6,063	4,891	-1,025	3,920	1,359	3,043	5,030	-880	-1,130
Income on debt	Cr	1,537	1,592	434	420	311	372	521	461	283	327
	Db	1,548	1,930	375	368	364	441	486	434	466	544
Portfolio investment income	Cr	18,073	21,533	4,266	4,607	4,616	4,584	4,626	5,288	5,815	5,804
	Db	14,448	17,855	3,193	3,455	3,701	4,099	3,792	4,187	4,980	4,896
Income on equity	Cr	2,414	3,245	484	873	539	518	713	956	831	745
	Db	8,659	10,681	1,943	2,040	2,206	2,470	2,292	2,445	3,106	2,838
Income on debt	Cr	15,659	18,287	3,782	3,735	4,076	4,066	3,913	4,331	4,984	5,059
	Db	5,788	7,175	1,250	1,415	1,494	1,629	1,500	1,742	1,874	2,059
Other investment income	Cr	10,069	13,172	2,214	2,529	2,701	2,625	2,863	3,276	3,388	3,645
	Db	10,006	13,715	2,405	2,407	2,629	2,565	2,930	3,360	3,616	3,809
Current Transfers	Cr	5,363	5,888	1,261	1,323	1,117	1,662	1,089	1,332	1,101	2,366
	Db	5,056	5,318	1,343	1,280	1,151	1,282	1,329	1,109	1,335	1,545
Current Account - Total	Cr	161,577	172,570	38,314	41,112	39,868	42,283	38,906	42,759	43,049	47,856
	Db	162,758	175,649	38,455	41,721	40,400	42,182	40,345	43,930	43,430	47,944
Current Account Balance		-1,181	-3,079	-141	-609	-532	101	-1,439	-1,171	-381	-88
Capital Account Balance		401	309	5	-30	59	367	81	30	13	185

¹ Adjusted for balance of payments purposes² Excluding passenger fare receipts³ Covers exports and imports of software that was not incorporated as part of computer hardware or physical media but separately transmitted by electronic means. The value of sales and purchases of additional software licences is also included⁴ Covers mainly inter-affiliate charges (e.g. management fees), in particular on the debit side

* Suppressed for confidentiality reasons

Table 2b – Financial Account¹

€ million

Item		2004	2005	2004				2005			
		Year		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Direct Investment	Abroad	-12,728	-10,404	-3,178	-4,812	-1,084	-3,654	-4,786	-1,252	-1,773	-2,593
	In Ireland	8,987	-18,312	5,108	2,964	4,105	-3,190	6,002	430	-12,220	-12,524
Equity	Abroad	-4,631	-3,563	-1,051	*	*	-1,588	-677	373	-1,152	-2,107
	In Ireland	-7,043	5,483	-2,263	-2,041	762	-3,501	-243	-1,013	662	6,077
Reinvested Earnings	Abroad	-2,809	*	-630	*	*	-1,192	-663	-795	-1,153	*
	In Ireland	9,145	6,063	4,891	-1,025	3,920	1,359	3,043	5,030	-880	-1,130
Other Capital	Abroad	-5,286	*	-1,497	-3,884	968	-873	-3,446	-830	532	*
	In Ireland	6,887	-29,859	2,480	6,030	-576	-1,047	3,202	-3,587	-12,003	-17,471
Portfolio Investment	Assets	-132,710	-114,966	-44,868	-18,747	-29,551	-39,544	-34,019	-38,856	-5,726	-36,365
	Liabilities	127,005	159,361	44,891	24,843	22,606	34,665	36,077	33,515	30,333	59,436
Equity	Assets	-36,385	-44,974	-14,203	-5,043	-6,444	-10,695	-8,969	-8,045	-13,617	-14,343
	Liabilities	65,972	72,948	21,021	10,446	13,000	21,505	13,866	20,761	14,083	24,238
Debt Instruments	Assets	-96,326	-69,992	-30,665	-13,704	-23,107	-28,850	-25,050	-30,811	7,891	-22,022
	Liabilities	61,033	86,413	23,870	14,397	9,606	13,160	22,211	12,754	16,250	35,198
Bonds and notes	Assets	-62,450	-73,291	-16,322	-7,921	-12,638	-25,569	-19,970	-25,819	-11,160	-16,342
	Liabilities	46,803	51,541	18,273	16,479	8,117	3,934	16,382	12,655	9,726	12,778
Money market instruments	Assets	-33,876	3,299	-14,343	-5,783	-10,469	-3,281	-5,080	-4,992	19,051	-5,680
	Liabilities	14,232	34,872	5,598	-2,082	1,489	9,227	5,829	99	6,524	22,420

Table 2b – Financial Account¹ - continued

€ million

Item		2004	2005	2004				2005			
		Year		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Other Investment	Assets	-45,504	-106,084	-21,485	-13,483	-5,575	-4,961	-28,601	-21,387	-30,119	-25,977
	Liabilities	59,203	92,056	17,509	9,821	12,450	19,423	22,870	32,156	18,281	18,749
Loans, currency and deposits	Assets	-44,180	-87,152	-21,338	-12,616	-5,528	-4,698	-26,771	-15,711	-22,651	-22,019
	Liabilities	51,064	87,844	16,740	7,942	10,174	16,208	18,809	29,196	20,791	19,048
Other ²	Assets	-1,324	-18,932	-147	-867	-47	-263	-1,830	-5,676	-7,467	-3,959
	Liabilities	8,141	4,212	770	1,880	2,276	3,215	4,061	2,960	-2,510	-299
Reserve Assets		1,177	1,473	1,189	135	-129	-18	48	69	11	1,345
Monetary gold		7	15	-2	8	1	0	14	0	1	0
Special drawing rights		0	-8	-2	0	-2	4	-2	-4	-1	-1
Reserve position in the IMF		162	165	65	39	19	39	3	45	9	108
Foreign exchange		1,008	1,301	1,128	88	-147	-61	33	28	2	1,238
Other		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance on Financial Account		5,431	3,125	-834	722	2,822	2,721	-2,408	4,675	-1,213	2,071
Net errors and omissions		-4,652	-354	970	-84	-2,349	-3,189	3,766	-3,534	1,582	-2,168
Memorandum Item:											
Government financial transactions	Assets	-1,964	-1,500	-949	-243	-346	-426	-588	-314	-330	-268
	Liabilities	1,940	1,348	1,461	3,379	-1,958	-942	120	721	425	82

¹ Financial account transactions are categorised under two headings 'Assets' and 'Liabilities' for *Portfolio Investment*, *Other Investment* and *Reserve Assets*. For *Direct Investment*, a 'directional' categorisation is used: 'Abroad' indicates direct investment by Irish investors in foreign companies; direct investment into Ireland is indicated by the heading 'In Ireland'. The sign convention used is: a minus sign in the 'Abroad' and 'Assets' columns means investments or acquisitions abroad (in enterprises, foreign securities, foreign deposits, etc.) by Irish investors exceeded their disinvestments or disposals in the period, while an entry without sign (less usual) means disinvestment exceeded investment; an entry without sign in the 'In Ireland' and 'Liabilities' columns means that investment transactions into Ireland or incurrences of liabilities to foreign investors exceeded disinvestment or extinctions of liabilities in the period, while a minus sign (less usual) indicates that disinvestment exceeded investment and liability extinctions exceeded incurrences

² Including financial derivatives and trade credits

* Suppressed for confidentiality reasons

Table 3 – Current, Capital and Financial Accounts showing IFSC¹ and non-IFSC activity

€ million

Item		2004	2005	2004				2005			
		Year		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Current Account - Total	Cr	161,577	172,570	38,314	41,112	39,868	42,283	38,906	42,759	43,049	47,856
	Db	162,758	175,649	38,455	41,721	40,400	42,182	40,345	43,930	43,430	47,944
Merchandise ²	Cr	80,229	82,798	19,889	20,430	19,441	20,469	19,457	20,703	20,001	22,637
	Db	48,417	52,522	11,722	12,242	11,574	12,879	12,403	13,098	12,102	14,919
Services	Cr	42,203	43,304	9,534	10,951	10,456	11,262	9,596	10,797	11,161	11,750
	Db	51,923	53,273	11,888	13,398	13,168	13,469	12,274	12,847	13,927	14,225
- IFSC	Cr	14,546	14,122	3,548	3,709	3,426	3,863	3,112	3,327	3,688	3,995
	Db	9,692	8,908	2,336	2,610	2,276	2,470	2,248	1,839	2,374	2,447
- non IFSC	Cr	27,657	29,183	5,986	7,242	7,030	7,399	6,485	7,470	7,473	7,755
	Db	42,231	44,366	9,552	10,788	10,892	10,999	10,026	11,008	11,554	11,778
Income	Cr	33,783	40,580	7,630	8,409	8,854	8,890	8,764	9,928	10,785	11,103
	Db	57,360	64,537	13,502	14,800	14,507	14,551	14,339	16,877	16,066	17,255
- IFSC	Cr	25,782	31,340	6,076	6,423	6,555	6,728	6,962	7,487	8,259	8,632
	Db	25,680	31,561	6,079	6,423	6,508	6,670	6,950	7,853	8,131	8,627
- non IFSC	Cr	8,001	9,240	1,554	1,986	2,299	2,162	1,802	2,441	2,526	2,471
	Db	31,679	32,977	7,423	8,377	7,998	7,881	7,389	9,024	7,935	8,629
Current Transfers	Cr	5,363	5,888	1,261	1,323	1,117	1,662	1,089	1,332	1,101	2,366
	Db	5,056	5,318	1,343	1,280	1,151	1,282	1,329	1,109	1,335	1,545
- IFSC ³	Cr	2,925	3,024	770	812	626	717	631	635	786	972
	Db	2,925	3,024	770	812	626	717	631	635	786	972
- non IFSC	Cr	2,437	2,864	491	510	491	945	458	697	315	1,394
	Db	2,131	2,292	573	468	525	565	698	474	548	572
Balance on Current Account		-1,181	-3,079	-141	-609	-532	101	-1,439	-1,171	-381	-88
Balance on Capital Account		401	309	5	-30	59	367	81	30	13	185

Table 3 – Current, Capital and Financial Accounts showing IFSC¹ and non-IFSC activity - continued

€ million

Item		2004	2005	2004				2005			
		Year		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Financial Account ⁴											
Direct investment	Abroad	-12,728	-10,404	-3,178	-4,812	-1,084	-3,654	-4,786	-1,252	-1,773	-2,593
	In Ireland	8,987	-18,312	5,108	2,964	4,105	-3,190	6,002	430	-12,220	-12,524
- IFSC	Abroad	422	-549	-70	857	121	-486	-388	1,432	-388	-1,205
	In Ireland	7,513	-21,604	3,758	3,342	1,681	-1,268	5,021	-3,143	-12,034	-11,448
- non IFSC	Abroad	-13,149	-9,854	-3,107	-5,669	-1,205	-3,168	-4,398	-2,684	-1,384	-1,388
	In Ireland	1,476	3,292	1,351	-378	2,425	-1,922	981	3,573	-186	-1,076
Portfolio investment	Assets	-132,710	-114,966	-44,868	-18,747	-29,551	-39,544	-34,019	-38,856	-5,726	-36,365
	Liabilities	127,005	159,361	44,891	24,843	22,606	34,665	36,077	33,515	30,333	59,436
- IFSC	Assets	-113,625	-89,819	-33,941	-21,742	-24,624	-33,318	-25,688	-31,605	-944	-31,582
	Liabilities	104,173	129,632	38,611	17,634	17,380	30,548	30,264	29,560	22,656	47,152
- non IFSC	Assets	-19,085	-25,146	-10,927	2,995	-4,927	-6,226	-8,331	-7,250	-4,782	-4,783
	Liabilities	22,833	29,730	6,281	7,209	5,226	4,117	5,813	3,955	7,677	12,285
Other investment ⁵	Assets	-45,504	-106,084	-21,485	-13,483	-5,575	-4,961	-28,601	-21,387	-30,119	-25,977
	Liabilities	59,203	92,056	17,509	9,821	12,450	19,423	22,870	32,156	18,281	18,749
- IFSC	Assets	-37,502	-73,796	-13,517	-3,068	-11,787	-9,130	-21,989	-19,395	-19,416	-12,996
	Liabilities	30,125	58,166	4,229	1,001	9,366	15,529	11,891	30,125	2,961	13,189
- non IFSC	Assets	-8,001	-32,288	-7,968	-10,415	6,212	4,170	-6,612	-1,992	-10,703	-12,981
	Liabilities	29,077	33,890	13,280	8,820	3,084	3,893	10,979	2,031	15,320	5,560
Reserve Assets		1,177	1,473	1,189	135	-129	-18	48	69	11	1,345
Balance on Financial Account		5,431	3,125	-834	722	2,822	2,721	-2,408	4,675	-1,213	2,071
Net errors and omissions		-4,652	-354	970	-84	-2,349	-3,189	3,766	-3,534	1,582	-2,168

¹ From the start of 2000 new international financial service projects are no longer subject to the earlier certification and licensing procedures in operation for location in the IFSC and such projects can, therefore, locate anywhere in Ireland. Additions to existing IFSC projects, however, are still subject to the formal procedures. For statistical analysis purposes this table still shows the 'IFSC/non-IFSC' breakdown and the activities of all international financial service enterprises are covered under the IFSC heading

² Adjusted for balance of payments purposes

³ Current transfers to and from IFSC enterprises relate solely to non-life insurance transactions (see Background Notes)

⁴ See footnote 1 on Table 2b

⁵ Including financial derivatives and trade credits

Table 4a – Current and Capital Accounts showing geographical¹ detail

€ million

Item		2004	2005	2004				2005			
		Year		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Current Account - Total	Cr	161,577	172,570	38,314	41,112	39,868	42,283	38,906	42,759	43,049	47,856
	Db	162,758	175,649	38,455	41,721	40,400	42,182	40,345	43,930	43,430	47,944
Merchandise ²	Cr	80,229	82,798	19,889	20,430	19,441	20,469	19,457	20,703	20,001	22,637
	Db	48,417	52,522	11,722	12,242	11,574	12,879	12,403	13,098	12,102	14,919
- EMU	Cr	34,726	37,218	8,822	9,006	8,047	8,851	8,483	9,408	8,659	10,668
	Db	11,770	12,496	3,029	2,866	2,732	3,143	3,203	3,021	2,785	3,487
- non EMU	Cr	45,504	45,580	11,067	11,424	11,394	11,619	10,974	11,295	11,342	11,969
	Db	36,648	40,028	8,693	9,376	8,842	9,737	9,201	10,077	9,317	11,433
- EU 15	Cr	51,420	53,466	12,936	13,103	12,144	13,237	12,418	13,390	12,505	15,153
	Db	31,531	32,394	7,694	7,764	7,652	8,421	7,994	7,832	7,481	9,087
- non EU 15	Cr	28,809	29,334	6,953	7,327	7,297	7,232	7,040	7,313	7,497	7,484
	Db	16,888	20,129	4,028	4,479	3,922	4,459	4,409	5,266	4,621	5,833
- EU 25	Cr	52,163	54,238	13,131	13,290	12,313	13,429	12,578	13,584	12,683	15,393
	Db	31,988	32,880	7,831	7,879	7,743	8,535	8,099	7,951	7,601	9,229
- non EU 25	Cr	28,066	28,561	6,758	7,140	7,128	7,040	6,880	7,118	7,319	7,244
	Db	16,430	19,644	3,891	4,363	3,831	4,345	4,305	5,146	4,502	5,691
Services	Cr	42,203	43,304	9,534	10,951	10,456	11,262	9,596	10,797	11,161	11,750
	Db	51,923	53,273	11,888	13,398	13,168	13,469	12,274	12,847	13,927	14,225
- EMU	Cr	14,136	14,899	3,262	3,709	3,354	3,811	3,304	3,783	3,503	4,309
	Db	17,151	17,199	3,880	4,490	4,442	4,339	4,031	4,129	4,361	4,678
- non EMU	Cr	28,066	28,407	6,272	7,242	7,102	7,450	6,292	7,014	7,659	7,442
	Db	34,773	36,075	8,008	8,908	8,726	9,131	8,243	8,718	9,567	9,547
- EU 15	Cr	25,906	26,753	5,806	7,044	6,400	6,656	5,693	6,861	6,802	7,397
	Db	26,382	26,318	6,183	6,961	6,679	6,559	6,087	6,464	6,720	7,047
- non EU 15	Cr	16,296	16,552	3,727	3,907	4,056	4,606	3,903	3,935	4,360	4,354
	Db	25,542	26,954	5,705	6,437	6,489	6,911	6,186	6,383	7,208	7,177
- EU 25	Cr	26,403	27,325	5,943	7,149	6,522	6,789	5,815	6,972	6,949	7,589
	Db	26,777	26,873	6,263	7,051	6,776	6,687	6,185	6,561	6,894	7,233
- non EU 25	Cr	15,799	15,981	3,590	3,802	3,934	4,473	3,781	3,825	4,213	4,162
	Db	25,147	26,399	5,625	6,348	6,392	6,782	6,089	6,286	7,033	6,991

Table 4a – Current and Capital Accounts showing geographical¹ detail - continued

€ million

Item		2004	2005	2004				2005			
		Year		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Income	Cr	33,783	40,580	7,630	8,409	8,854	8,890	8,764	9,928	10,785	11,103
	Db	57,360	64,537	13,502	14,800	14,507	14,551	14,339	16,877	16,066	17,255
- EMU	Cr	13,905	15,683	3,067	3,668	3,564	3,606	3,493	4,013	4,069	4,108
	Db	21,872	23,498	4,683	5,822	5,677	5,690	5,008	6,464	5,548	6,478
- non EMU	Cr	19,877	24,896	4,563	4,740	5,290	5,284	5,270	5,915	6,716	6,995
	Db	35,489	41,038	8,819	8,979	8,830	8,861	9,331	10,412	10,518	10,777
- EU 15	Cr	22,344	25,778	4,999	5,745	5,714	5,886	5,819	6,488	6,769	6,702
	Db	34,000	38,590	7,517	8,849	8,643	8,991	8,248	10,143	9,718	10,481
- non EU 15	Cr	11,438	14,802	2,631	2,664	3,139	3,004	2,945	3,440	4,016	4,401
	Db	23,360	25,946	5,985	5,951	5,864	5,560	6,091	6,733	6,348	6,774
- EU 25	Cr	22,659	26,141	5,022	5,845	5,807	5,985	5,930	6,542	6,867	6,802
	Db	34,105	38,757	7,538	8,875	8,670	9,022	8,283	10,192	9,756	10,526
- non EU 25	Cr	11,123	14,439	2,608	2,564	3,046	2,905	2,834	3,386	3,918	4,301
	Db	23,256	25,778	5,964	5,925	5,837	5,530	6,056	6,684	6,309	6,729
Current Transfers	Cr	5,363	5,888	1,261	1,323	1,117	1,662	1,089	1,332	1,101	2,366
	Db	5,056	5,318	1,343	1,280	1,151	1,282	1,329	1,109	1,335	1,545
- EMU	Cr	844	1,108	270	253	155	166	246	292	267	303
	Db	828	1,092	266	249	151	162	242	288	263	299
- non EMU	Cr	4,518	4,778	991	1,069	962	1,496	842	1,040	834	2,062
	Db	4,228	4,224	1,077	1,031	1,000	1,120	1,087	821	1,071	1,245
- EU 15	Cr	3,625	4,438	853	897	681	1,194	812	1,104	683	1,839
	Db	2,871	3,526	847	770	620	634	955	782	797	992
- non EU 15	Cr	1,738	1,450	408	426	436	468	277	228	418	527
	Db	2,186	1,792	497	510	531	648	375	327	537	553
- EU 25	Cr	3,627	4,441	854	897	682	1,194	813	1,104	685	1,839
	Db	2,918	3,572	859	781	632	646	966	793	810	1,003
- non EU 25	Cr	1,735	1,447	407	425	436	467	276	228	416	527
	Db	2,138	1,745	484	499	519	636	363	316	525	541
Balance on Current Account		-1,181	-3,079	-141	-609	-532	101	-1,439	-1,171	-381	-88
Balance on Capital Account		401	309	5	-30	59	367	81	30	13	185

¹ The term 'EMU' means the area represented by the 12 Member States participating in Monetary Union. For analytical purposes, additional details are given of transactions between residents of Ireland and residents of the EU25 area. With the expansion of the EU on 1 May 2004, the EU25 area comprises the former EU15 area along with Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia

² Adjusted for balance of payments purposes

Table 4b – Financial Account¹ showing geographical² detail

€ million

Item		2004	2005	2004				2005			
		Year		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Direct Investment	Abroad	-12,728	-10,404	-3,178	-4,812	-1,084	-3,654	-4,786	-1,252	-1,773	-2,593
	In Ireland	8,987	-18,312	5,108	2,964	4,105	-3,190	6,002	430	-12,220	-12,524
- EMU	Abroad	-4,603	-5,215	-1,585	178	-667	-2,529	-2,267	-486	1,544	-4,006
	In Ireland	15,652	-10,466	6,568	4,509	4,137	438	-981	-190	1,543	-10,838
- non EMU	Abroad	-8,125	-5,189	-1,593	-4,990	-417	-1,125	-2,518	-767	-3,317	1,413
	In Ireland	-6,664	-7,846	-1,460	-1,545	-31	-3,628	6,983	620	-13,763	-1,686
- EU 15	Abroad	-8,074	-9,449	-2,575	-139	-1,645	-3,715	-2,677	-1,586	174	-5,360
	In Ireland	10,037	-8,204	203	6,729	5,829	-2,724	-3,142	259	3,063	-8,384
- non EU 15	Abroad	-4,653	-955	-602	-4,673	561	61	-2,109	333	-1,947	2,768
	In Ireland	-1,048	-10,109	4,905	-3,765	-1,723	-465	9,143	171	-15,283	-4,140
- EU 25	Abroad	-7,902	-8,173	-2,682	-225	-1,246	-3,749	-2,747	-239	169	-5,356
	In Ireland	10,279	-8,093	306	6,793	5,854	-2,674	-3,366	110	3,590	-8,427
- non EU 25	Abroad	-4,825	-2,229	-495	-4,587	162	95	-2,039	-1,013	-1,941	2,764
	In Ireland	-1,290	-10,219	4,803	-3,829	-1,749	-515	9,368	320	-15,810	-4,097
Portfolio Investment	Assets	-132,710	-114,966	-44,868	-18,747	-29,551	-39,544	-34,019	-38,856	-5,726	-36,365
	Liabilities	127,005	159,361	44,891	24,843	22,606	34,665	36,077	33,515	30,333	59,436
- EMU	Assets	-48,512	-41,360	-18,788	-7,493	-8,950	-13,281	-18,150	-12,918	-1,136	-9,156
	Liabilities	31,199	30,540	12,239	4,365	7,318	7,277	6,673	4,659	3,434	15,774
- non EMU	Assets	-84,198	-73,600	-26,080	-11,254	-20,601	-26,263	-15,864	-25,938	-4,590	-27,208
	Liabilities	95,807	128,820	32,653	20,478	15,288	27,388	29,404	28,856	26,898	43,662
- EU 15	Assets	-76,209	-76,135	-26,739	-10,093	-12,236	-27,141	-24,419	-20,612	-9,359	-21,745
	Liabilities	92,416	106,269	33,046	17,931	16,253	25,186	25,342	20,720	18,675	41,532
- non EU 15	Assets	-56,499	-38,827	-18,129	-8,653	-17,314	-12,403	-9,596	-18,244	3,633	-14,620
	Liabilities	34,588	53,092	11,845	6,912	6,352	9,479	10,735	12,795	11,658	17,904
- EU 25	Assets	-77,350	-78,847	-27,000	-10,572	-12,475	-27,303	-25,437	-21,899	-10,078	-21,433
	Liabilities	93,338	106,590	33,328	18,105	16,321	25,584	25,753	20,621	18,820	41,396
- non EU 25	Assets	-55,361	-36,115	-17,868	-8,175	-17,076	-12,242	-8,578	-16,957	4,352	-14,932
	Liabilities	33,667	52,771	11,564	6,738	6,284	9,081	10,324	12,894	11,513	18,040

Table 4b – Financial Account¹ showing geographical² detail - continued

€ million

Item		2004	2005	2004				2005			
		Year		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Other Investment ³	Assets	-45,504	-106,084	-21,485	-13,483	-5,575	-4,961	-28,601	-21,387	-30,119	-25,977
	Liabilities	59,203	92,056	17,509	9,821	12,450	19,423	22,870	32,156	18,281	18,749
- EMU	Assets	-20,978	-27,293	-6,980	-7,041	-4,751	-2,206	-9,650	-2,914	-5,176	-9,553
	Liabilities	24,933	34,425	1,513	736	12,556	10,128	7,576	21,343	6,134	-628
- non EMU	Assets	-24,526	-78,792	-14,505	-6,442	-824	-2,755	-18,951	-18,473	-24,943	-16,425
	Liabilities	34,270	57,632	15,996	9,085	-106	9,295	15,294	10,813	12,147	19,378
- EU 15	Assets	-39,390	-79,594	-18,944	-10,318	-2,959	-7,169	-21,688	-10,040	-18,538	-29,328
	Liabilities	55,932	71,029	14,941	10,347	9,177	21,467	19,180	26,515	11,891	13,443
- non EU 15	Assets	-6,115	-26,488	-2,541	-3,165	-2,617	2,208	-6,913	-11,346	-11,580	3,351
	Liabilities	3,271	21,028	2,568	-526	3,273	-2,044	3,690	5,641	6,390	5,307
- EU 25	Assets	-41,123	-82,421	-19,505	-11,404	-3,353	-6,861	-21,942	-10,272	-20,047	-30,160
	Liabilities	56,102	72,268	14,703	10,419	9,673	21,307	19,559	27,290	11,998	13,421
- non EU 25	Assets	-4,381	-23,662	-1,980	-2,080	-2,222	1,901	-6,658	-11,115	-10,072	4,183
	Liabilities	3,102	19,788	2,807	-598	2,777	-1,884	3,311	4,866	6,283	5,328
Reserve Assets		1,177	1,473	1,189	135	-129	-18	48	69	11	1,345
Balance on Financial Account		5,431	3,125	-834	722	2,822	2,721	-2,408	4,675	-1,213	2,071
<i>Net errors and omissions</i>		<i>-4,652</i>	<i>-354</i>	<i>970</i>	<i>-84</i>	<i>-2,349</i>	<i>-3,189</i>	<i>3,766</i>	<i>-3,534</i>	<i>1,582</i>	<i>-2,168</i>

¹ See footnote 1 on Table 2b² The term 'EMU' means the area represented by the 12 Member States participating in Monetary Union. For analytical purposes, additional details are given of transactions between residents of Ireland and residents of the EU25 area. With the expansion of the EU on 1 May 2004, the EU25 area comprises the former EU15 area along with Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia³ Including financial derivatives and trade credits

Background Notes *(updated June 2005)*

Introduction Ireland's balance of payments (BOP) quarterly statistical compilation system was completely overhauled in the late 1990's to strengthen sectoral and enterprise coverage in basic data collection; adopt best international methodological standards; conform more closely with international presentation formats; and provide for geographical analysis of the results. The improvements facilitate the production of data required by the European Central Bank (ECB) and the EU Commission (EUROSTAT) to compile balance of payments statistics for the EMU and EU areas. The needs of other international organisations (such as IMF and OECD) as well as those of national users have also been catered for.

A description of the methodology is given below. It follows as far as possible the recommendations of the IMF's *Balance of Payments Manual - 5th Edition* (BPM5) published in 1993 and its supplement *Financial Derivatives: A Supplement to the 5th Edition (1993) of the Balance of Payments Manual* published in 2000. These recommendations were prepared in close co-operation with the European Commission (Eurostat), the OECD and other international organisations.

Data collection BOP data collection is statutory and surveys or other data collection arrangements are conducted under the Statistics (Balance of Payments) Order, 2005 made under the Statistics Act, 1993.

A number of new quarterly surveys were introduced in 1998. These were directed to financial service enterprises not formerly surveyed, in particular to enterprises operating from the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Dublin. Some of the information now being collected directly from these enterprises was formerly implicitly incorporated from other sources in the published results. In addition to the new surveys existing surveys were re-designed.

The financial enterprise surveys cover banking, insurance, asset financing, treasury, institutional investment, activities of mutual funds, unit trusts and similar collective investment operations, broking and other financial service provision. Respondents are required to make quarterly returns using either paper or electronic media. Exhaustive coverage is aimed at but, in order to reduce reporting burden, companies with low activity volumes may, on approval from the CSO, provide annual data. Overall, about 4,500 entities are surveyed.

Manufacturing and non-financial service enterprises have been reporting their BOP transactions to CSO for a number of years. The surveys directed towards these enterprises were re-designed to meet the new conceptual and geographical requirements. Coverage is on a sample selection basis, those surveyed being selected on the basis of statistical register information concerning transactions with non-residents. About 500 companies make quarterly and/or annual returns.

The information collected for all types of enterprises covers transactions with non-residents concerning purchases and sales of services, income flows, transfers, as well as acquisitions and disposals of foreign assets or liabilities.

Apart from survey data, administrative sources also provide information on non-resident transactions (e.g. the National Treasury Management Agency, on flows associated with Ireland's foreign debt and other transactions including those associated with the National Pensions Reserve Fund; the Department of Defence, concerning Ireland's UN military peace-keeping activity; the Department of Foreign Affairs, on expenditure incurred in maintaining Ireland's embassies and consulates abroad; the Central Bank and Financial Services Authority of Ireland, on reserve assets and other assets/liabilities and associated income flows). Information is also obtained from other sources (e.g. charitable organisations, industry bodies). In addition, information on merchandise exports and imports and on tourism expenditure and receipts is obtained from other CSO inquiries.

Latest developments The compilation system was further developed and refined in 2004 to include the estimated values of a variety of cross-border transactions which, because of the lack of data, were either not captured formerly or not adequately captured. These cover (a) direct imports and exports of goods for consumption of private households and not included in the official merchandise trade statistics; (b) improved data on transactions in services (tourism and travel; communications; construction; diplomatic and consular services; cultural services; bloodstock breeding); (c) new estimates for income receipts from Irish resident investment in residential and commercial property abroad and for income remittances to the foreign owners of breeding bloodstock based in Ireland, along with improved estimates of the earnings (credits and debits) of students, other cross-border workers and local employees of embassies; (d) new estimates for income taxes paid on the earnings of students and other cross-border workers and for the remittances abroad of earnings of immigrant workers in Ireland; and (e) new estimates for investment in residential and commercial property abroad by Irish residents.

Structure of the Balance of Payments accounts The balance of payments presentation consists of three tables or accounts, the *Current Account*, the *Capital Account* and the *Financial Account*. The current account consists of trade in merchandise and services, income inflows and outflows and current transfers. The capital account covers capital

transfers and the acquisition and disposal of non-produced, non-financial assets. The financial account is concerned with transactions in foreign financial assets and liabilities, distinguishing the functional type of investment i.e. direct, portfolio and other investment (including transactions in financial derivatives) and reserve assets.

Sign convention and symbols

The BOP presentation follows the standard double entry accounting treatment for a transaction i.e. in principle, every credit entry is matched by a corresponding debit entry elsewhere in the system.

In the current account, credit items are exports of merchandise and services, income inflows and current transfer receivables while debit items are imports, income outflows and transfer payables. In the capital account, capital transfer receivables are recorded as credits and payables as debits. Both credit (denoted by the symbol 'Cr') and debit (denoted by 'Db') items are shown as positive numbers and the net balances are calculated as *credit – debit*.

The transactions in the financial account are implicitly recorded on a credit/debit basis but are generally presented on an assets/liabilities basis. Increases in foreign assets or reductions in foreign liabilities are shown with a – (minus) sign, i.e. implicitly as a debit amount, while decreases in assets or increases in liabilities are unsigned i.e. shown as positive numbers (i.e. as credits). The net balances are calculated as *net change in assets transactions + net change in liabilities transactions*. In the case of direct investment, the asset/liability presentation is replaced by the so-called 'directional' one, i.e. *direct investment abroad* (which approximates to the assets concept) and *direct investment in Ireland* (which closely equates to liabilities). The difference between the two approaches centres on the treatment of reverse investment by a direct investment enterprise in its parent (direct investor) or its foreign affiliates (see *direct investment* below).

Amounts are shown in millions of Euro; '0' means amounts of less than 500,000 units of currency; '-' means 'not relevant'. Cell entries may not add to totals due to rounding.

Net errors and omissions

Given the double entry accounting procedure described above, the sum of the credit entries should in principle equal the sum of the debit entries over all three accounts. In practice, because some transactions may not be captured or because of differences in coverage, valuation and timing of transactions, exact symmetry does not occur and a balancing item *net errors and omissions* is inserted to balance the overall account. Ideally, the magnitude of this item should be relatively small in relation to the combined value of all credit and debit transactions expressed in absolute terms (i.e. ignoring their signs) over all three accounts. It should also fluctuate frequently from positive to negative values.

Valuation

BOP transactions, in principle, should be recorded on an accruals basis using market valuation. In practice, the collection system is designed to adhere to this approach and, for the most part, the valuations reported are either market values or a close approximation. In certain cases, income (interest) flows on debt securities may be reported on a cash rather than an accruals basis.

Residence

BOP transactions occur between residents of Ireland and non-residents. The term 'resident' covers (a) individuals, including foreign nationals, living in Ireland for at least one year as well as Irish embassy staff and military staff located abroad, (b) Irish government enclaves located abroad (embassies, consulates, etc.), and (c) corporate bodies who have a centre of economic interest located here, including branches of foreign-registered companies. It is important to note that transactions in foreign assets and liabilities can occur between residents and should be recorded in the financial account.

Geographical allocation principle

Current and capital account transactions are allocated to the country of residence of the counterpart. Financial account transactions are allocated on the basis of the debtor/creditor principle; assets are geographically assigned to the country of the debtor (i.e. the issuer) of the assets, while liabilities are assigned to the country of the creditor (i.e. the holder). In the case of direct investment, transactions are geographically attributed on the basis of country of location of immediate ownership of the direct investment enterprise rather than that of the ultimate beneficial owner. Therefore, if a US investor directly invests in a direct investment enterprise located in Ireland, the origin of the investment as presented in these statistics is US. If the US investor indirectly invests, through its Cayman Islands subsidiary, in an enterprise located in Ireland then the origin of the investment is Cayman Islands. In both cases, the country of location of the ultimate beneficial owner is US. This may have a significant impact on the geographic analysis of FDI statistics.

Current account

Merchandise exports and imports are valued f.o.b. (*free on board*) for BOP purposes. While imports are valued c.i.f. (*cost, insurance and freight*) in the official external trade statistics, adjustments are made to reflect an estimated f.o.b. valuation (formerly the c.i.f. valuation for imports was used in the BOP). These adjustments result from the application of different c.i.f./f.o.b. conversion ratios to the values of imports from within the European Union and from outside the European Union. In addition and in line with EU and ECB requirements, merchandise imports from within European Union member states are compiled on the basis of country of consignment rather than country of ultimate origin (as was the case formerly). Some adjustments are also made to the official merchandise trade statistics to conform to the BOP change of ownership and market

valuation principles. In addition, certain exports sales of software licences are included in BOP service exports and not in BOP merchandise exports (as was the case formerly). The BOP merchandise figures now include the estimated values of (unrecorded) retail exports of fuel to Northern Ireland and of unrecorded imports of goods for personal consumption from Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

Services exports and imports are presented to show nine categories of service types: *transport, tourism and travel, communications, insurance services, financial services, computer services, royalties and licences, business services* and *other services not elsewhere specified*. Some specific points of note are:

- (i) Because of the presentation of merchandise imports on a f.o.b. (rather than c.i.f.) basis, the freight element of the c.i.f. to f.o.b. adjustment is included in *transport*.
- (ii) The value of *insurance services* provided to non-residents by resident insurers (credit) is estimated as the value of direct and supplementary premiums earned less the value of claims payable less increases in the actuarial element of insurance technical reserves. Supplementary premiums consist of investment income earned on investing the insurance technical reserves. For BOP purposes, this income is attributed to the policy holders and is also treated as being paid back to the insurance company by them. To obtain the value of insurance services purchased from non-resident insurers (debit), the ratio of the estimated service charge to total premiums for insurance exports is applied to the total premiums payable to non-resident insurers. To date, reinsurance transactions (e.g. premiums and claims) were consolidated (i.e. netted) in the estimates compiled. In this release reinsurance is treated on a gross basis and, hence, insurance service credits and debits have been increased accordingly. This gross recording treatment of reinsurance transactions has no net impact on the insurance service balance as the reinsurance element on the credit and debit sides are offsetting. In relation to merchandise imports, the freight insurance element of the c.i.f. to f.o.b. adjustment referred to above under *merchandise* is recorded under *insurance*.
- (iii) *Financial services* covers non-interest receivables and payables in respect of financial intermediary and auxiliary services (other than those of insurance enterprises and pension funds).
- (iv) Exports and imports of computer software which is embedded in hardware or carried on other physical media are not included in *computer services* but under *merchandise*. Sales and purchases of software transmitted electronically as well as exports of certain software licences are recorded under *computer services*.
- (v) *Business services* covers receivables and payables for (a) *merchandising and other trade-related services*, (b) *operational leasing* and (c) *miscellaneous business services*.

Merchandising consists of the sales net of purchases by Irish merchants of foreign goods bought from and sold to non-residents without entering or leaving Ireland; it may also include sales less purchases of services associated with the installation, maintenance, repair, etc. of these goods. *Other trade-related services* consist of commissions earned by resident agents or paid to non-resident agents in connection with imports or exports. *Operational leasing* covers rental receivables and payables in respect of leasing (other than financial leasing) and chartering, without operators, of aircraft, ships and other transport or other equipment and plant. *Miscellaneous business services* covers legal, accounting, management consulting, public relations, advertising and marketing, research and development and other professional and technical services as well as agricultural services. It also covers inter-affiliate management fees.

- (vi) *Other services not elsewhere specified* covers construction services, personal and cultural services (e.g. fees and royalties for film, television and musical recordings and performances), educational services and government services. The last sub-category includes credit and debit entries for (a) the estimated expenditures of embassy and consular staff in the host countries, (b) non-labour expenditures by governments towards the provision of embassy and consular services in the host countries, and (c) receipts i.e. credits, in respect of collection of Ireland's budgetary contributions to the EU).

Income covers (a) *compensation of employees*, which relates to the earnings of persons working outside their country of residence for less than one year (i.e. students and other short-term cross-border workers) and earnings of local staff working in embassies and consulates, and (b) *investment income*, which covers earnings arising from foreign investors' investments in Ireland and Irish investors' investment abroad. Investment income excludes realised and unrealised capital and exchange gains or losses. It is subdivided into three categories:

- (i) *Direct investment income* covers income accruing to an Irish or foreign direct investor from their ownership of (correspondingly) a direct investment enterprise located abroad or in Ireland (see definition of *direct investment* in the *financial account* section below). It is split into income on equity and income on debt. *Direct investment income on equity* may be called the 'entrepreneurial income' of the enterprise which, in principle, is its net operating surplus plus investment income receivable less investment income payable. Apart from excluding capital and exchange gains and losses, it also excludes the value of unusual provisions and

write-offs and is calculated net of corporation taxes. In company accounting terms, direct investment income on equity can be equated or approximated to an enterprise's consolidated profit (or loss) after interest, tax and minority interests and excluding capital and exchange gains (or losses) and other unusual provisions and write-offs. This income item is further subdivided into *dividends and distributed branch profits* and *reinvested earnings*. Dividends are recorded at the time they become due for payment while distributed branch profits are recorded when receipt or payment occurs. Amounts recorded under *reinvested earnings* represent the difference between the enterprise's entrepreneurial income earned in the reference period and the distributions (dividends, etc.) made in the same period. As it is an income flow in the BOP current account but without a counterpart cash flow in the financial account, an offset (i.e. with the opposite sign) of equal magnitude is recorded under *direct investment* in the latter. *Direct investment income on debt* covers income (mainly interest) on non-equity inter-affiliate assets and liabilities (mainly loans). This item also includes estimates of (a) the (net) income generated from investment by private individuals in residential and commercial property abroad, and (b) the profits attributable to the foreign owners of breeding bloodstock – see *Direct Investment* below.

- (ii) *Portfolio investment income* covers income receivable and payable to non-direct investors on their holdings of equity and long and short-term debt securities (see definition of *portfolio investment* below). Income on equity consists of dividends actually received/paid. Income on debt securities refers to coupon or interest payments on bonds and notes and interest on money market instruments. In principle, the income should be recorded on an accruals basis using market valuations. In practice, some respondents may report on a cash basis. Discounts and premiums (i.e. differences between the nominal value and the issue value) are treated as income or negative income respectively and spread (accrued) over the life of the instrument.
- (iii) *Other investment income* covers interest on loans, deposits and trade credits. The flows recorded under this item relate largely to interest flows of credit institutions but also cover the income generated from the holdings of the Central Bank and Financial Services Authority of Ireland in external reserve assets and income arising from its non-reserve assets and liabilities.

Current transfers covers unrequited receipts and payments. Important components are subsidies and other current transfers receivable from and taxes payable to the European Union, payments under Third World aid programmes operated by non-governmental organisations and transfers related to non-life insurance business. As regards the latter, for resident insurers the transfer credit is calculated as the gross insurance premiums earned (i.e. premiums earned plus supplementary premiums) less the insurance service charge; the debit is the amount of claims payable to non-resident policy holders adjusted by the change in the actuarial element of insurance technical reserves. For resident holders of policies issued by non-resident insurers, credits represent claims receivable and debits represent the insurance premiums less the estimated insurance service charge (see also the note above on '*insurance*' item under '*services*'). This item also includes income taxes receivable or payable on the earnings of cross-border workers.

The **current account balance** is the total of all current account credits less the total of all current account debits.

Capital account

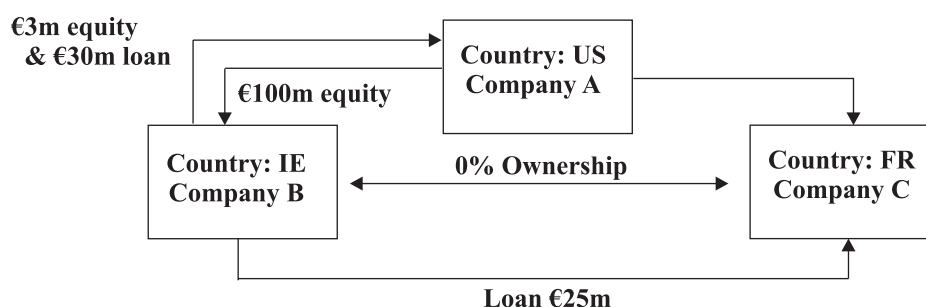
The capital account largely covers capital transfers, in particular amounts receivable under the EU Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund and all other transfers intended for capital purposes. Estimates of migrants' transfers (i.e. the transfer of the net worth of immigrants and emigrants) are included but they are not well based. In addition, acquisitions and disposals of non-produced, non-financial assets (patents, copyrights, etc.) are also covered here. These transactions tend to occur infrequently but the amounts involved can vary substantially. Because of certain data limitations only the net flows are shown.

Financial account

The financial account covers transactions in foreign financial assets (i.e. claims on non-residents) and foreign financial liabilities (i.e. obligations to non-residents). The four categories of functional investment which are distinguished (i.e. *direct investment*, *portfolio investment*, *other investment* and *reserve assets*) are based primarily on the relationship between the parties and secondly on the nature of the instrument involved.

Direct investment is a category of international investment that, based on an equity ownership of at least 10%, reflects a lasting interest by a resident in one economy (the direct investor) in an enterprise resident in another economy (the direct investment enterprise). Using this criterion, a direct investment relationship can exist between a number of affiliated enterprises whether the linkage involves a single chain or a number of chains. It can extend to a direct investment enterprise's subsidiaries, sub-subsidiaries and associates. Once the direct investment relationship is established, all subsequent financial flows between the related entities are recorded as direct investment transactions, regardless of the type of financial instrument used in the financing arrangement (except for financial intermediary affiliates among which direct investment transactions are limited to those involving equity and permanent debt). The components of direct investment transactions are *equity capital*, *reinvested earnings*, and *other capital*. *Equity capital* comprises investment in branches, shares in subsidiaries and associates (except non-participating preferred shares that are treated as debt securities) and other capital contributions. *Reinvested earnings* consists of the off-setting entry to the corresponding current

account income item: it is the direct investor's share of the undistributed earnings of its branches, subsidiaries and associates. *Other capital* covers all other inter-affiliate financial transactions (borrowing and lending of funds), including debt securities and suppliers' credits (i.e. trade credits). Following the recommendations of the IMF, ECB, EUROSTAT and OECD, direct investment flows are recorded on a '*directional basis*' rather than the more usual assets/liabilities basis. *Direct investment abroad* covers *net* investment by parent companies resident in Ireland in their foreign branches, subsidiaries and associated companies. *Direct investment in Ireland* covers the *net* investment by foreign companies in their affiliates located in Ireland. The essential difference between the directional principle and the assets/liabilities approach centres on the treatment of reverse investment by a direct investment enterprise in its parent (direct investor) and on the treatment of transactions with other foreign affiliates covered by a direct investment relationship. In the Irish context, reverse *equity* investment in a parent enterprise is rare and tends to be relatively small. However, substantial flows (and positions) under the category *direct investment – other capital* can take place. These predominantly take the form of inter-affiliate loans but trade credits and transactions in financial securities between affiliates are also included. The treatment of reverse investment has to be considered under three scenarios. First, for *reverse equity investment for holdings of 10% or more of the voting capital*, such transactions are regarded as separate direct investment in their own right for both the equity and non-equity involved. Second, for *reverse equity investment for holdings of less than 10% of the voting capital*, the transactions involved, whether in equity or non-equity instruments, are regarded as offsetting (or netted against) any existing direct investment by the parent in the enterprise. For example, if a US direct investor A invests €100m in a direct investment enterprise B located in Ireland and B acquires a small reverse equity investment of €3m in its parent (A) then the value of *direct investment in Ireland-equity* is €97m (i.e. €100m less €3m). Extending this example, if B advances a €30m loan to parent, A, *direct investment in Ireland-other capital* is €30m lower. Overall *direct investment in Ireland* from A to B is therefore €67m (i.e. €100m - €3m - €30m). The third scenario concerns a *non-equity transaction between enterprises related other than through equity ownership* (e.g. between 'sister' or 'cousin' companies). Given a number of considerations, there is some flexibility in the international standards regarding the treatment of this situation. In Ireland's case and in order to ensure that all inward and outward flows (and stocks) arising from an initial inward direct investment are retained within the *direct investment in Ireland* category, the same principle as for reverse equity or non-equity investment with a parent company is applied. The transaction referred to is therefore treated as offsetting any existing *other capital* investment. Again extending the earlier example, if resident direct investment enterprise, B, advances a loan of €25m to a sister company, C, located in France, *direct investment in Ireland – other capital* is lowered by €25m and overall *direct investment in Ireland* from A to B amounts to €42m (i.e. €100m - €3m - €30m - €25m) – see diagram below. Cases occur on an ongoing basis where the outward investment flows or positions of B (or other sister direct investment enterprises located in Ireland) exceed the amounts attributable to A under *direct investment in Ireland*. The equivalent treatment is applied for similar situations categorised under *direct investment abroad*.



The compilation system for direct investment also includes investment by Irish private residents (households) in residential and commercial property abroad. Such properties are regarded as constituting notional direct investment enterprises overseas and are treated accordingly in the system, both in terms of any relevant financial account investment flows and any current account flows (services or income). In addition, foreign investment in bloodstock breeding activities in Ireland as well as associated income flows are now reflected in the BOP statistics.

Portfolio investment covers the acquisition and disposal of equity and debt securities which cannot be classified under direct investment or reserve assets transactions. The securities involved are traded (or tradable) in organised and other financial markets. *Debt securities* cover *bonds and notes*, which have an original maturity term of more than one year, and *money market instruments* with original maturity of one year or less. Investment by private resident investors in commercial property abroad which was formerly included in portfolio investment is now included instead under direct investment. Transactions are valued at market value inclusive of accrued income.

Other investment covers assets and liabilities other than those classifiable to direct investment, portfolio investment or reserve assets. It comprises loans, currency and deposits, short and long-term trade credits, financial derivatives and other accounts receivable and payable. Derivatives cover over-the-counter (OTC) and exchange-traded contracts and include options, futures, swaps, forwards, etc. For BOP purposes, all receipts and payments connected to financial derivative contracts (other than the values of transactions in the underlying commodities or financial instruments) are recorded in the financial account¹ i.e. there are no entries in the current account other than related fees and service charges (not always identifiable). In principle, other investment transactions are valued at market valuation inclusive of accrued income. For loans, book values are accepted as a proxy for market values.

Reserve assets at national level in the context of EMU have been defined by the European Central Bank from 1 January 1999, the date of introduction of the euro currency, as: (a) qualifying assets which are under the effective control of the national monetary authority (i.e. the Central Bank and Financial Services Authority of Ireland), and (b) consisting of highly liquid, marketable and credit-worthy foreign (non-euro) currency denominated claims on non euro-area residents together with gold, special drawing rights (SDRs) and the reserve position in the IMF.

Up to 31 December 1998, together with gold, SDRs and the reserve position in the IMF, the definition covered all foreign currency (non-Irish Pound) denominated claims on non-residents of Ireland. Therefore, all claims on euro-area residents as well as euro-denominated claims on non euro-area residents, which prior to 1999 would have been classified as reserve assets, are from 1999 onwards classified to *portfolio investment* or *other investment* as appropriate.

¹The inclusion of these receipts and payments in the financial account reflects the amended recommendations on the treatment of financial derivative transactions as described in the IMF's *Financial Derivatives: A Supplement to the 5th Edition (1993) of the Balance of Payments Manual* published in 2000.