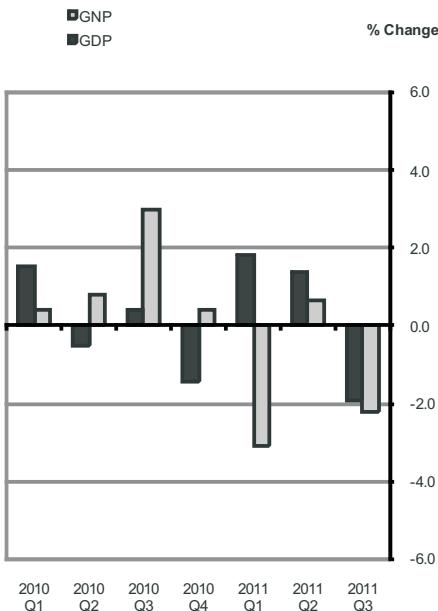




Seasonally Adjusted growth rates
(% change on previous quarter)



Quarterly National Accounts

Quarter 3 2011

GDP and GNP Seasonally adjusted at constant prices

| | Q3 2011 | | Q3 2011 | |
|-----|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| | Amount €m | Quarterly % change | Amount €m | Quarterly % change |
| GDP | 40,052 | -1.9 | | |
| GNP | 32,234 | -2.2 | | |

GDP and GNP decrease in third quarter

Initial estimates for the third quarter of 2011 show seasonally adjusted decreases of 1.9 per cent in GDP and 2.2 per cent in GNP compared with Q2 2011. Comparing Q3 2011 with the same quarter one year earlier, GDP at constant prices registered a decrease of 0.1 per cent while GNP was 4.2 per cent lower.

Increases in Agricultural and Industrial output

There were increases of 15 per cent in the output of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing in Q3 2011 compared with the same quarter of last year while Industry (excluding Building and Construction) grew by 6.8 per cent. However these increases were not sufficient to counteract decreases of 20.4 per cent in the output of Building and Construction, 2.6 per cent in Distribution, Transport and Communications, 4.1 per cent in Public Administration and Defence and 3.0 per cent in Other Services resulting in an overall decrease of 0.1 per cent in GDP.

On the expenditure side of the account net exports (exports minus imports) grew by 21.8% at constant 2009 prices compared with the same quarter of last year. Domestic demand, on the other hand, declined by 5.4%.

Seasonally adjusted decreases in GDP and GNP

Personal Consumption (-1.3%), Government expenditure (-1.3%), Fixed Investment (-20.9%) and Imports (-1.5%) decreased on a seasonally adjusted constant price basis between Q2 and Q3 2011 while Exports (+0.8%) increased over the same period.

On the Output side of the accounts all sectors of the economy except Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing recorded seasonally adjusted constant price decreases between Q2 and Q3 2011. As a result GDP registered a seasonally adjusted quarterly decline of 1.9 per cent in Q3 2011. Net factor outflows increased by €142m seasonally adjusted between the second and third quarters of 2011 resulting in an overall decrease in GNP of 2.2 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis.

The calculation methods for quarterly accounts are similar to those used in the annual National Income and Expenditure. As some of the available sources are of lesser reliability than those used for the annual national accounts, the quarterly estimates are subject to a greater margin of error than the annual figures.

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ISSN 1393-9017

Annex 2 Transportable Goods Industries & Utilities Sector and Building & Construction Sector at Constant Factor Cost - (Chain linked annually and referenced to year 2009) - Non-Seasonally Adjusted and Seasonally Adjusted

€ million

| Period | Industry | NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED | | SEASONALLY ADJUSTED | | |
|---|----------|--|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------|
| | | of which | of which | of which | of which | |
| | | Transportable Goods Industries and Utilities | Building and construct. | Transportable Goods Industries and Utilities | Building and construct. | |
| 2006 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 10,873 | 8,404 | 2,250 | 10,784 | 8,227 | 2,296 |
| Q2 | 11,785 | 9,529 | 2,153 | 11,299 | 8,938 | 2,236 |
| Q3 | 10,381 | 7,750 | 2,335 | 10,982 | 8,435 | 2,288 |
| Q4 | 10,799 | 8,228 | 2,316 | 10,830 | 8,342 | 2,235 |
| 2007 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 11,806 | 9,279 | 2,350 | 11,612 | 8,993 | 2,394 |
| Q2 | 11,273 | 8,964 | 2,182 | 10,842 | 8,444 | 2,278 |
| Q3 | 10,694 | 8,129 | 2,295 | 11,238 | 8,776 | 2,238 |
| Q4 | 11,632 | 9,160 | 2,306 | 11,813 | 9,426 | 2,217 |
| 2008 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 11,488 | 9,000 | 2,304 | 11,181 | 8,607 | 2,361 |
| Q2 | 11,529 | 9,288 | 2,147 | 11,134 | 8,814 | 2,252 |
| Q3 | 10,727 | 8,394 | 2,158 | 11,227 | 8,999 | 2,098 |
| Q4 | 10,265 | 8,212 | 1,949 | 10,520 | 8,536 | 1,852 |
| 2009 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 11,033 | 9,355 | 1,666 | 10,645 | 8,861 | 1,728 |
| Q2 | 10,944 | 9,443 | 1,523 | 10,600 | 9,018 | 1,603 |
| Q3 | 10,197 | 8,634 | 1,549 | 10,652 | 9,200 | 1,505 |
| Q4 | 10,063 | 8,599 | 1,467 | 10,388 | 9,017 | 1,374 |
| 2010 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 11,772 | 10,702 | 1,070 | 11,276 | 10,055 | 1,127 |
| Q2 | 11,156 | 10,094 | 1,062 | 10,818 | 9,683 | 1,118 |
| Q3 | 10,502 | 9,406 | 1,096 | 10,982 | 9,997 | 1,066 |
| Q4 | 10,990 | 9,878 | 1,112 | 11,386 | 10,405 | 1,028 |
| 2011 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 12,122 | 11,266 | 855 | 11,560 | 10,538 | 911 |
| Q2 | 11,957 | 11,100 | 856 | 11,589 | 10,661 | 902 |
| Q3 | 10,921 | 10,049 | 872 | 11,444 | 10,676 | 849 |
| <i>Percentage change on corresponding period of previous year</i> | | | | <i>Percentage change on previous quarter</i> | | |
| 2006 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 7.0 | 5.2 | 12.8 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 3.5 |
| Q2 | 8.7 | 11.5 | 1.8 | 4.8 | 8.6 | -2.6 |
| Q3 | 7.2 | 7.8 | 4.6 | -2.8 | -5.6 | 2.3 |
| Q4 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.4 | -1.4 | -1.1 | -2.3 |
| 2007 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 8.6 | 10.4 | 4.4 | 7.2 | 7.8 | 7.1 |
| Q2 | -4.3 | -5.9 | 1.4 | -6.6 | -6.1 | -4.8 |
| Q3 | 3.0 | 4.9 | -1.7 | 3.6 | 3.9 | -1.7 |
| Q4 | 7.7 | 11.3 | -0.5 | 5.1 | 7.4 | -1.0 |
| 2008 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | -2.7 | -3.0 | -2.0 | -5.3 | -8.7 | 6.5 |
| Q2 | 2.3 | 3.6 | -1.6 | -0.4 | 2.4 | -4.6 |
| Q3 | 0.3 | 3.3 | -5.9 | 0.8 | 2.1 | -6.9 |
| Q4 | -11.8 | -10.3 | -15.5 | -6.3 | -5.1 | -11.7 |
| 2009 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | -4.0 | 3.9 | -27.7 | 1.2 | 3.8 | -6.7 |
| Q2 | -5.1 | 1.7 | -29.1 | -0.4 | 1.8 | -7.3 |
| Q3 | -4.9 | 2.9 | -28.2 | 0.5 | 2.0 | -6.1 |
| Q4 | -2.0 | 4.7 | -24.7 | -2.5 | -2.0 | -8.7 |
| 2010 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 6.7 | 14.4 | -35.8 | 8.5 | 11.5 | -18.0 |
| Q2 | 1.9 | 6.9 | -30.3 | -4.1 | -3.7 | -0.8 |
| Q3 | 3.0 | 9.0 | -29.3 | 1.5 | 3.2 | -4.7 |
| Q4 | 9.2 | 14.9 | -24.2 | 3.7 | 4.1 | -3.5 |
| 2011 | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 3.0 | 5.3 | -20.1 | 1.5 | 1.3 | -11.4 |
| Q2 | 7.2 | 10.0 | -19.3 | 0.2 | 1.2 | -1.1 |
| Q3 | 4.0 | 6.8 | -20.4 | -1.3 | 0.1 | -5.9 |

Background Notes

Introduction This release gives the official quarterly national accounts estimates for Ireland. It provides the first set of results for quarter 3 of 2011. These are compiled in accordance with the ESA95 system of accounts, as used in all member states of the European Union. The aggregates shown have been derived from a wide variety of sources. As some of the available sources are of lesser reliability than those used for the annual national accounts, the quarterly estimates given in this release have a higher margin of error than the annual figures.

Revisions Minor revisions have been made to the previously published figures for 2011.

Current Price For the annual accounts, GDP at current prices is calculated using two independent approaches i.e. the *income* and *expenditure* methods. On a quarterly basis, it is not possible to compile a reliable income based estimate. The estimates in current prices are on the expenditure basis only and these are supplied in Table 2. The balancing item (i.e. the statistical discrepancy) which is required to adjust the expenditure based estimate to the definitive measure of GDP (the average of income and expenditure) has been projected forward into 2011 in line with the trend in the aggregate of all the other expenditure items.

Volumes At constant prices, two measures (*output and expenditure*) are used. These measures are now being produced using annual chain linked indices. On the output side, for each quarter, the volume growth measures at a detailed level are weighted together using value added weights of the previous year. Similarly, on the expenditure side, the growth estimates are weighted by expenditure weights of the previous year. The average of the two measures is the growth measure used. The change over a period of years is then calculated by linking together the annual changes. The estimates in this release are referenced to 2009 values. A consequence of this method is that the individual components of GDP at reference year values do not add to the total.

Definitions **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** represents the total value added (output) in the production of goods and services in the country.

Net factor income from the rest of the world (NFI) is the difference between investment income (interest, profits etc.,) and labour income earned abroad by Irish resident persons and companies (inflows) and similar incomes earned in Ireland by non-residents (outflows). The data are taken from the Balance of Payments statistics. However the components of interest flows involving banks in this item in the national accounts are constructed on the basis of “pure” interest rates (that is exclusive of FISIM) whereas in the balance of payments the FISIM adjustment is not carried out. There is an equal and opposite adjustment then made to the imports and exports of services in the national accounts which is not made to these items in the balance of payments. The deflator used to generate the constant price figures is based on the implied quarterly price index for the exports of goods and services. In some years exceptional income payments have had to be deflated individually.

Gross National Product (GNP) is the sum of GDP and NFI. Because NFI is the difference between two large gross flows, its magnitude can fluctuate greatly from one quarter to another. This can lead to significant differences between the GDP and GNP growth rate for the same quarter.

Methodology **Table 1: Output Measure**

The estimation procedures are similar to those used for the annual accounts whenever possible. However, in a number of cases the annual methodology cannot be followed due to the lack of relevant data.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

The estimate for Agriculture is calculated by using the available sub-annual information for exports and slaughterings of animals, milk deliveries, stock changes (six-monthly), fertiliser and feeding stuffs usage etc. For some items, annual figures are distributed equally across the quarters. Monthly sea fish landings are used to estimate the quarterly output of fishing.

Industry

The gross value added of manufacturing industry is calculated by applying monthly volume of production indices to the previous year's quarterly gross value added, including royalties. Royalties are separately deflated using the export price index and then deducted.

Changes in the volume of investment in construction projects are used to estimate the output of the building and construction sector.

Distribution, Transport and Communications

For distribution the methods used are similar to those used for the annual calculation. They rely heavily on the retail sales indices and other CSO services inquiries. In the case of transport, most of the output measures used for the annual calculations are available on a quarterly basis.

For communications the main data sources are direct inquiries to the suppliers, with additional data and trend estimation for some residual components.

Public Administration and Defence

The quarterly estimate of value added for public administration and defence has been calculated based on the employment trends in the public sector.

Other Services (Incl. Rent)

The Other Services category covers a variety of service activities, some of which are surveyed on a quarterly basis by the CSO. For some services, information on outputs is not directly available on a quarterly basis. In most of these cases, quarterly estimates are derived using trends in related indicators. In a small number of residual cases, annual estimates are distributed equally across the quarters.

Taxes and Subsidies

Taxes and subsidies are deflated at a detailed level using appropriate price indices. Value added taxes and excise duties have been accrued and recorded in the period in which the underlying expenditure took place.

Net factor income from the rest of the world

The value of net income flows with the rest of the world in the Quarterly National Accounts release is generally consistent with the published Balance of Payments statistics except for the FISIM adjustment (see the definition of this item above).

Tables 2 and 3: Expenditure Measures

The various components of the expenditure based measure of GDP are defined in the annual *National Income and Expenditure* publication. The methods used for the quarterly series are similar to those used for the annual where possible but in many cases alternative methods have been applied.

Personal Consumption Expenditure is estimated using CSO data, such as the Retail Sales Indices together with some direct inquiries. Administrative data sources are used for some goods such as fuel and power products and motor vehicles. Constant price estimates are obtained using components of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Net Expenditure by Central and Local Government at current market prices is estimated using Government records. From Q2 of 2009 it is calculated net of the public sector pension levy introduced in March 2009. The constant price estimates of remuneration are derived by extrapolating base year estimates using an index of employment or using appropriate deflators for wages and are unaffected by the pension levy which is treated as a reduction in wage rates. Expenditure on goods and services is deflated partly by consumer price indices and partly by wholesale price indices.

Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation at current market prices includes expenditure on building and construction work and machinery and equipment. The quarterly estimates of dwellings are based on data from the Department of Environment's (DoE) Quarterly Housing Bulletin. Information on other building and construction is obtained from the Department's Review and Outlook together with data from the Public Capital Programme. Quarterly estimates of commercial vehicles used in the business sector are estimated using administrative data. Estimates of other machinery and equipment are made by reference to import statistics and the CSO Quarterly Capital Assets in Industry Inquiry. Current estimates are deflated to prices of the previous year using appropriate price indices such as components of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and indices for construction activity.

Value of Physical Changes in Stocks at current prices covers stock changes in the agricultural, industrial and distribution sectors and in intervention stocks. This item measures the actual value change in stocks between the beginning and end of quarter *adjusted for any changes in the prices of the underlying commodities*. Data on industrial and distribution stocks are taken from published and unpublished components of the CSO Quarterly Stocks Inquiry. Agricultural stocks are estimated from the results of CSO's agricultural enumerations and statistics on animal slaughterings, etc. Constant price estimates are calculated by deflating the current estimates using relevant price indices and price data on agricultural and intervention stocks. Some adjustments have been made to the stocks values to improve the coherence of the quarterly accounts. These are judgmental adjustments to allow for within-year timing differences between the output and expenditure measures. Over a calendar year, these adjustments are neutral.

Exports and Imports of Goods and Services at current prices are taken from the CSO Balance of Payments series. An adjustment is made for FISIM (see the definition of “net factor income from the rest of the world” page 12) Current price estimates are converted to previous year prices using the available price indices, including export and import unit value indices.

A very significant fall in the pattern of distributive type trade with Great Britain in Electrical machinery and parts in 2002 has a very large influence on year-on-year comparisons of both exports and imports for 2003 and the latter part of 2002. While the comparisons of gross flows are considerably influenced, the net balance of trade is not significantly affected.

Seasonal Adjustment

The series are adjusted using the X-11 ARIMA procedure, which is an adaptation of the U.S. Bureau of the Census X-11 seasonal adjustment program, developed by Statistics Canada. The adjusted series are obtained by seasonally adjusting each of the original unadjusted series. This applies to GDP and GNP also. In other words the seasonally adjusted GDP and GNP are not derived as the sum of the seasonally adjusted components (such as Personal Consumption, Exports etc.) but rather by seasonally adjusting the unadjusted values of GDP and GNP as shown in Tables 1 - 3. On account of this and also because of the statistical discrepancy in the original series, the sum of the seasonally adjusted components of GDP and GNP do not add to the respective seasonally adjusted series.