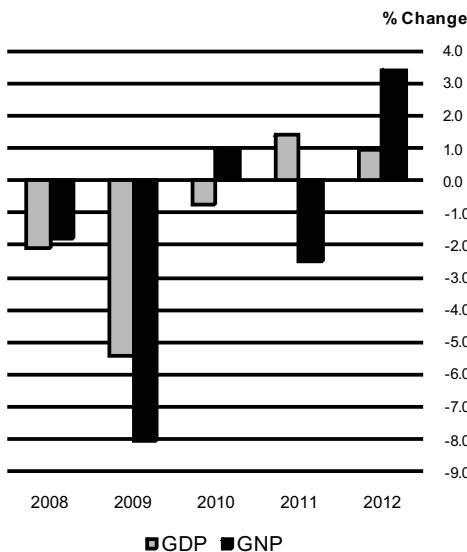




### Annual Growth Rates



## Quarterly National Accounts

Quarter 4 2012 and Year 2012 (Preliminary)

### GDP and GNP at constant (2010) prices

#### Jan-Dec 2012

	Amount €m	Annual % change
GDP	160,214	0.9
GNP	131,306	3.4

### Annual increase of 0.9 per cent in GDP in 2012

Preliminary estimates indicate that GDP in volume terms increased by 0.9 per cent for the year 2012. This is the second year in succession in which GDP showed an increase over the previous year following three years of declines in GDP during 2008 to 2010. GNP showed an increase of 3.4 per cent in 2012 over 2011.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, constant price GDP for the fourth quarter of 2012 showed almost no change compared with the previous quarter while GNP declined by 0.8 per cent over the same period.

### Distribution, Transport, Software and Communications sector the main contributor to growth in 2012

It can be seen from Table 1 that the value added of the Distribution, Transport, Software and Communications sector increased by 3.1 per cent in volume terms in 2012 compared to 2011 while the Other Services sector registered an increase of 0.2 per cent over the same period. Industry (including building and construction) also registered a small increase of 0.3 per cent in real terms in 2012 compared to 2011. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries declined by 10 per cent while Public administration and defence decreased by 4.2 per cent over this period.

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. **These preliminary estimates will therefore be revised when the next detailed annual results are published.**

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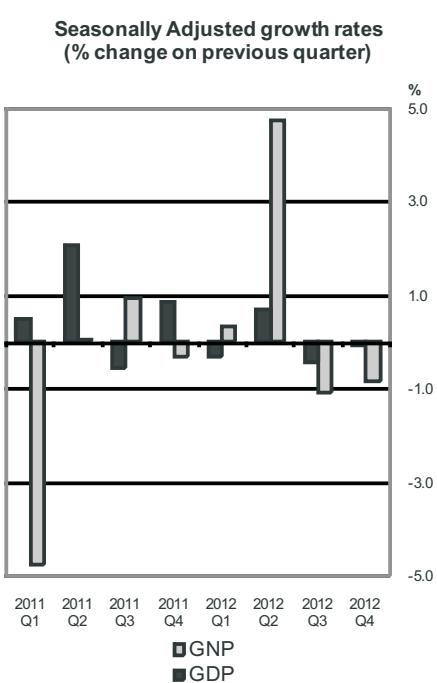
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### Positive export growth

On the Expenditure side of the accounts (Table 3) it can be seen that exports performed positively in 2012 for the third successive year while imports remained at much the same level as in 2011. The combined effect resulted in overall growth of €4,413m in net exports. This growth more than offset the declines which took place in the final domestic demand components of expenditure.

Personal consumption in 2012, which accounts for approximately two thirds of domestic demand, fell by 0.9 per cent while Government expenditure was 3.7 per cent down on 2011. Capital formation increased by 1.2 per cent over the same period.

### No change in GDP (seasonally adjusted) in Quarter 4

Initial estimates for the fourth quarter of 2012 indicate that there was almost no change in GDP in real terms in Q4 2012 compared to the previous quarter. There was a decline of 0.8 per cent in GNP in constant prices over this period. On the Output side (Table 4) the Distribution, Transport, Software and Communications sector increased by 3.3 per cent in Q4 compared to the previous quarter while Public administration and defence showed a 0.9 per cent growth in Q4 over Q3. Industry declined by 5.9 per cent while Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries decreased by 8.6 per cent and Other Services were 0.4 per cent lower in Q4 2012 compared with Q3 2012.

On the Expenditure side (Table 6) there were small declines in Government expenditure, in Capital Investment and in Net Exports compared with the third quarter while Personal Consumption Expenditure increased by 1 per cent in Q4 compared to Q3.

Factor income outflows were 3.8 per cent higher than in the previous quarter leading to an overall decline in GNP of 0.8 per cent in Q4 2012 compared with Q3 2012.







**Table 4 Gross Value Added at Constant Factor Cost by Sector of Origin and Gross National Product at Constant Market Prices (Chain linked annually and referenced to year 2010) - Seasonally Adjusted** € million

Period	Agric. forestry and fishing	Industry of which Building and construct.	Dist. transport software and comms.	Public admin. and defence	Other services (including rent)	GDP at constant factor cost	Taxes less subsidies	GDP at constant market prices	Net factor income from the rest of the world	GNP at constant market prices
<b>(Note the sectors here are based on Nace rev 2. For further details see the methodology notes at the back)</b>										
<b>2007</b>										
Q1	934	10,786	1,260	7,439	2,046	15,682	<b>37,163</b>	5,944	<b>43,025</b>	-6,899
Q2	933	10,181	1,199	7,554	2,074	15,743	<b>36,589</b>	5,811	<b>42,254</b>	-6,922
Q3	888	10,654	1,180	7,022	2,095	15,852	<b>36,313</b>	5,696	<b>41,853</b>	-5,868
Q4	943	10,938	1,188	7,467	2,085	15,819	<b>37,924</b>	5,547	<b>43,357</b>	-7,638
<b>2008</b>										
Q1	915	10,359	1,237	7,734	2,159	15,762	<b>37,235</b>	5,466	<b>42,666</b>	-6,122
Q2	882	10,230	1,168	7,798	2,193	15,528	<b>36,854</b>	5,186	<b>41,972</b>	-6,305
Q3	968	10,143	1,115	7,802	2,181	15,522	<b>36,982</b>	4,948	<b>41,843</b>	-7,162
Q4	904	9,185	1,011	7,838	2,145	15,275	<b>35,696</b>	4,736	<b>40,359</b>	-6,579
<b>2009</b>										
Q1	881	9,551	922	8,022	2,116	15,456	<b>36,021</b>	4,145	<b>40,222</b>	-6,787
Q2	883	9,265	845	8,153	2,081	15,287	<b>35,621</b>	4,081	<b>39,716</b>	-7,193
Q3	821	8,655	784	8,123	2,050	15,140	<b>35,046</b>	4,041	<b>39,055</b>	-7,492
Q4	824	8,364	730	7,924	2,041	15,167	<b>34,693</b>	4,080	<b>38,720</b>	-7,415
<b>2010</b>										
Q1	800	9,366	615	8,180	2,000	14,900	<b>35,121</b>	3,875	<b>39,048</b>	-7,096
Q2	792	8,913	611	8,409	1,958	15,048	<b>35,155</b>	4,026	<b>39,192</b>	-6,989
Q3	818	8,958	616	8,754	1,948	14,777	<b>35,330</b>	4,056	<b>39,364</b>	-6,460
Q4	832	9,344	572	8,370	1,921	15,093	<b>34,953</b>	3,964	<b>38,886</b>	-5,789
<b>2011</b>										
Q1	762	9,251	527	8,761	1,909	14,461	<b>35,103</b>	3,936	<b>39,089</b>	-7,436
Q2	756	9,047	513	8,900	1,895	15,142	<b>35,945</b>	3,969	<b>39,909</b>	-8,183
Q3	789	9,311	490	8,612	1,872	14,871	<b>35,814</b>	3,889	<b>39,688</b>	-7,847
Q4	744	9,622	478	8,751	1,871	14,786	<b>36,101</b>	3,958	<b>40,033</b>	-8,325
<b>2012</b>										
Q1	755	9,476	482	8,735	1,819	14,851	<b>36,078</b>	3,819	<b>39,919</b>	-7,700
Q2	723	9,742	474	8,590	1,804	14,764	<b>36,360</b>	3,827	<b>40,209</b>	-6,871
Q3	627	9,262	429	9,228	1,797	14,912	<b>36,127</b>	3,927	<b>40,045</b>	-7,041
Q4	573	8,714	472	9,528	1,813	14,849	<b>36,177</b>	3,871	<b>40,026</b>	-7,306
<i>Percentage change on previous quarter</i>										
<b>2007</b>										
Q1	8.9	1.8	6.2	13.2	2.5	2.4	<b>5.3</b>	5.7	<b>5.5</b>	3.2
Q2	-0.1	-5.6	-4.9	1.5	1.4	0.4	<b>-1.5</b>	-2.2	<b>-1.8</b>	-2.1
Q3	-4.8	4.6	-1.6	-7.1	1.0	0.7	<b>-0.8</b>	-2.0	<b>-0.9</b>	1.7
Q4	6.2	2.7	0.7	6.3	-0.5	-0.2	<b>4.4</b>	-2.6	<b>3.6</b>	-0.1
<b>2008</b>										
Q1	-3.0	-5.3	4.1	3.6	3.6	-0.4	<b>-1.8</b>	-1.5	<b>-1.6</b>	1.1
Q2	-3.7	-1.3	-5.6	0.8	1.6	-1.5	<b>-1.0</b>	-5.1	<b>-1.6</b>	-1.6
Q3	9.8	-0.8	-4.5	0.1	-0.5	-0.0	<b>0.3</b>	-4.6	<b>-0.3</b>	-2.5
Q4	-6.6	-9.4	-9.3	0.5	-1.6	-1.6	<b>-3.5</b>	-4.3	<b>-3.5</b>	-2.7
<b>2009</b>										
Q1	-2.5	4.0	-8.8	2.3	-1.4	1.2	<b>0.9</b>	-12.5	<b>-0.3</b>	-1.3
Q2	0.3	-3.0	-8.3	1.6	-1.7	-1.1	<b>-1.1</b>	-1.5	<b>-1.3</b>	-2.6
Q3	-7.0	-6.6	-7.2	-0.4	-1.5	-1.0	<b>-1.6</b>	-1.0	<b>-1.7</b>	-2.5
Q4	0.4	-3.4	-6.9	-2.5	-0.5	0.2	<b>-1.0</b>	1.0	<b>-0.9</b>	-0.7
<b>2010</b>										
Q1	-2.9	12.0	-15.7	3.2	-2.0	-1.8	<b>1.2</b>	-5.0	<b>0.8</b>	0.9
Q2	-1.1	-4.8	-0.8	2.8	-2.1	1.0	<b>0.1</b>	3.9	<b>0.4</b>	1.7
Q3	3.3	0.5	1.0	4.1	-0.5	-1.8	<b>0.5</b>	0.7	<b>0.4</b>	2.1
Q4	1.7	4.3	-7.2	-4.4	-1.4	2.1	<b>-1.1</b>	-2.3	<b>-1.2</b>	0.6
<b>2011</b>										
Q1	-8.4	-1.0	-7.8	4.7	-0.6	-4.2	<b>0.4</b>	-0.7	<b>0.5</b>	-4.7
Q2	-0.7	-2.2	-2.7	1.6	-0.7	4.7	<b>2.4</b>	0.8	<b>2.1</b>	0.1
Q3	4.3	2.9	-4.4	-3.2	-1.2	-1.8	<b>-0.4</b>	-2.0	<b>-0.6</b>	1.0
Q4	-5.6	3.3	-2.5	1.6	-0.0	-0.6	<b>0.8</b>	1.8	<b>0.9</b>	-0.3
<b>2012</b>										
Q1	1.4	-1.5	0.9	-0.2	-2.8	0.4	<b>-0.1</b>	-3.5	<b>-0.3</b>	0.4
Q2	-4.2	2.8	-1.6	-1.7	-0.8	-0.6	<b>0.8</b>	0.2	<b>0.7</b>	4.7
Q3	-13.3	-4.9	-9.5	7.4	-0.4	1.0	<b>-0.6</b>	2.6	<b>-0.4</b>	-1.1
Q4	-8.6	-5.9	10.1	3.3	0.9	-0.4	<b>0.1</b>	-1.4	<b>-0.0</b>	-0.8

**Table 5 Expenditure on Gross National Product at Current Market Prices - Seasonally Adjusted**

Period	Personal consumption of goods and services	Net exp. by central and local government on current goods and services	Gross domestic fixed capital formation	Value of physical changes in stocks	Exports of goods and services	Imports of goods and services	GDP at current market prices	Net factor income from the rest of the world	€million GNP at current market prices
2007									
Q1	22,419	7,089	13,288	153	37,809	-33,383	47,650	-6,936	40,854
Q2	23,063	7,227	11,909	-54	37,884	-33,036	47,222	-6,803	40,429
Q3	23,479	7,331	11,367	-191	38,080	-34,092	45,992	-5,854	40,168
Q4	23,697	7,361	11,822	1,111	38,674	-34,790	47,877	-7,021	40,675
2008									
Q1	23,784	7,521	11,540	-215	37,512	-34,181	45,732	-5,921	39,885
Q2	23,546	7,668	9,538	103	37,105	-33,227	44,732	-5,976	38,856
Q3	23,693	7,601	10,046	115	37,475	-33,622	44,895	-7,032	37,809
Q4	23,102	7,703	8,123	-312	38,172	-32,860	43,533	-6,466	36,999
2009									
Q1	21,141	7,686	7,158	-390	37,391	-31,254	41,513	-6,726	34,856
Q2	20,801	7,213	6,645	-395	36,912	-30,535	40,493	-7,156	33,378
Q3	20,618	7,136	6,141	-408	36,195	-29,255	40,109	-7,366	32,590
Q4	20,558	7,191	5,593	-271	35,960	-29,362	39,187	-7,193	32,109
2010									
Q1	20,342	6,644	4,892	-229	37,804	-30,038	39,545	-7,109	32,388
Q2	20,606	6,511	5,230	-357	39,387	-32,147	39,510	-7,013	32,626
Q3	20,711	6,384	4,362	171	40,853	-32,993	39,686	-6,479	33,001
Q4	20,368	6,639	4,202	-109	39,859	-33,212	37,791	-5,734	32,193
2011									
Q1	20,375	6,352	4,429	25	40,886	-33,450	39,000	-7,481	31,523
Q2	20,305	6,474	4,309	36	41,432	-32,726	39,915	-8,253	31,749
Q3	20,149	6,357	3,601	313	41,846	-32,742	39,885	-7,821	31,823
Q4	20,435	6,241	3,711	-132	42,696	-33,025	40,235	-8,465	31,907
2012									
Q1	20,306	6,284	4,868	-46	43,723	-34,891	40,499	-8,074	32,370
Q2	20,317	6,195	3,710	77	44,117	-33,490	41,066	-7,113	34,128
Q3	20,534	6,180	3,972	-114	44,622	-34,481	41,066	-7,384	33,426
Q4	20,782	6,030	3,883	10	44,703	-34,815	40,993	-7,629	33,461
<i>Percentage change on previous quarter</i>									
2007									
Q1	2.9	4.7	4.2		6.9	4.8	6.0		4.0
Q2	2.9	2.0	-10.4		0.2	-1.0	-0.9		-1.0
Q3	1.8	1.4	-4.5		0.5	3.2	-2.6		-0.6
Q4	0.9	0.4	4.0		1.6	2.0	4.1		1.3
2008									
Q1	0.4	2.2	-2.4		-3.0	-1.8	-4.5		-1.9
Q2	-1.0	2.0	-17.3		-1.1	-2.8	-2.2		-2.6
Q3	0.6	-0.9	5.3		1.0	1.2	0.4		-2.7
Q4	-2.5	1.3	-19.1		1.9	-2.3	-3.0		-2.1
2009									
Q1	-8.5	-0.2	-11.9		-2.0	-4.9	-4.6		-5.8
Q2	-1.6	-6.2	-7.2		-1.3	-2.3	-2.5		-4.2
Q3	-0.9	-1.1	-7.6		-1.9	-4.2	-0.9		-2.4
Q4	-0.3	0.8	-8.9		-0.6	0.4	-2.3		-1.5
2010									
Q1	-1.1	-7.6	-12.5		5.1	2.3	0.9		0.9
Q2	1.3	-2.0	6.9		4.2	7.0	-0.1		0.7
Q3	0.5	-1.9	-16.6		3.7	2.6	0.4		1.1
Q4	-1.7	4.0	-3.7		-2.4	0.7	-4.8		-2.4
2011									
Q1	0.0	-4.3	5.4		2.6	0.7	3.2		-2.1
Q2	-0.3	1.9	-2.7		1.3	-2.2	2.3		0.7
Q3	-0.8	-1.8	-16.4		1.0	0.0	-0.1		0.2
Q4	1.4	-1.8	3.1		2.0	0.9	0.9		0.3
2012									
Q1	-0.6	0.7	31.2		2.4	5.7	0.7		1.5
Q2	0.1	-1.4	-23.8		0.9	-4.0	1.4		5.4
Q3	1.1	-0.2	7.1		1.1	3.0	-0.0		-2.1
Q4	1.2	-2.4	-2.2		0.2	1.0	-0.2		0.1

**Table 6 Expenditure on Gross National Product at Constant Market Prices  
(Chain linked annually and referenced to year 2010) - Seasonally Adjusted**

Period	Personal consumption of goods and services	Net exp. by central and local government on current goods and services	Gross domestic fixed capital formation	Value of physical changes in stocks	Exports of goods and services	Imports of goods and services	GDP at constant market prices	Net factor income from the rest of the world	€million GNP at constant market prices
2007									
Q1	21,104	7,247	9,986	209	38,862	-35,232	<b>43,025</b>	-6,899	<b>36,001</b>
Q2	21,402	7,211	9,121	-25	38,702	-34,629	<b>42,254</b>	-6,922	<b>35,239</b>
Q3	21,596	7,327	8,796	-389	38,935	-35,480	<b>41,853</b>	-5,868	<b>35,842</b>
Q4	21,830	7,343	9,318	1,954	39,835	-36,079	<b>43,357</b>	-7,638	<b>35,792</b>
2008									
Q1	21,849	7,354	9,394	-412	39,101	-35,475	<b>42,666</b>	-6,122	<b>36,195</b>
Q2	21,402	7,311	8,146	279	38,800	-34,285	<b>41,972</b>	-6,305	<b>35,605</b>
Q3	21,499	7,303	8,629	387	38,489	-34,384	<b>41,843</b>	-7,162	<b>34,724</b>
Q4	21,120	7,331	7,273	-577	38,227	-33,122	<b>40,359</b>	-6,579	<b>33,788</b>
2009									
Q1	20,485	7,249	6,418	-335	37,623	-31,721	<b>40,222</b>	-6,787	<b>33,336</b>
Q2	20,327	7,082	6,239	-426	37,214	-31,382	<b>39,716</b>	-7,193	<b>32,477</b>
Q3	20,219	6,863	5,992	-449	36,915	-30,285	<b>39,055</b>	-7,492	<b>31,674</b>
Q4	20,210	6,827	5,597	-250	36,954	-30,548	<b>38,720</b>	-7,415	<b>31,464</b>
2010									
Q1	20,409	6,646	4,584	-240	38,153	-30,606	<b>39,048</b>	-7,096	<b>31,738</b>
Q2	20,628	6,617	5,283	-370	39,070	-32,222	<b>39,192</b>	-6,989	<b>32,288</b>
Q3	20,617	6,478	4,596	137	40,617	-32,776	<b>39,364</b>	-6,460	<b>32,958</b>
Q4	20,376	6,461	4,308	-67	40,045	-32,767	<b>38,886</b>	-5,789	<b>33,159</b>
2011									
Q1	20,204	6,389	4,258	13	40,646	-32,765	<b>39,089</b>	-7,436	<b>31,587</b>
Q2	20,022	6,353	4,390	-3	41,493	-32,027	<b>39,909</b>	-8,183	<b>31,608</b>
Q3	19,798	6,251	3,754	304	41,833	-31,745	<b>39,688</b>	-7,847	<b>31,911</b>
Q4	20,023	6,082	3,972	-111	41,871	-31,403	<b>40,033</b>	-8,325	<b>31,819</b>
2012									
Q1	19,722	6,181	4,540	-98	42,740	-33,027	<b>39,919</b>	-7,700	<b>31,932</b>
Q2	19,706	6,001	3,865	74	42,560	-31,279	<b>40,209</b>	-6,871	<b>33,447</b>
Q3	19,840	5,991	4,080	-120	42,559	-31,884	<b>40,045</b>	-7,041	<b>33,086</b>
Q4	20,044	5,949	4,076	33	42,762	-32,126	<b>40,026</b>	-7,306	<b>32,809</b>
<i>Percentage change on previous quarter</i>									
2007									
Q1	2.2	3.8	4.2		8.0	4.6	<b>5.5</b>		<b>3.2</b>
Q2	1.4	-0.5	-8.7		-0.4	-1.7	<b>-1.8</b>		<b>-2.1</b>
Q3	0.9	1.6	-3.6		0.6	2.5	<b>-0.9</b>		<b>1.7</b>
Q4	1.1	0.2	5.9		2.3	1.7	<b>3.6</b>		<b>-0.1</b>
2008									
Q1	0.1	0.1	0.8		-1.8	-1.7	<b>-1.6</b>		<b>1.1</b>
Q2	-2.0	-0.6	-13.3		-0.8	-3.4	<b>-1.6</b>		<b>-1.6</b>
Q3	0.5	-0.1	5.9		-0.8	0.3	<b>-0.3</b>		<b>-2.5</b>
Q4	-1.8	0.4	-15.7		-0.7	-3.7	<b>-3.5</b>		<b>-2.7</b>
2009									
Q1	-3.0	-1.1	-11.8		-1.6	-4.2	<b>-0.3</b>		<b>-1.3</b>
Q2	-0.8	-2.3	-2.8		-1.1	-1.1	<b>-1.3</b>		<b>-2.6</b>
Q3	-0.5	-3.1	-4.0		-0.8	-3.5	<b>-1.7</b>		<b>-2.5</b>
Q4	-0.0	-0.5	-6.6		0.1	0.9	<b>-0.9</b>		<b>-0.7</b>
2010									
Q1	1.0	-2.6	-18.1		3.2	0.2	<b>0.8</b>		<b>0.9</b>
Q2	1.1	-0.4	15.3		2.4	5.3	<b>0.4</b>		<b>1.7</b>
Q3	-0.1	-2.1	-13.0		4.0	1.7	<b>0.4</b>		<b>2.1</b>
Q4	-1.2	-0.3	-6.3		-1.4	-0.0	<b>-1.2</b>		<b>0.6</b>
2011									
Q1	-0.8	-1.1	-1.2		1.5	-0.0	<b>0.5</b>		<b>-4.7</b>
Q2	-0.9	-0.6	3.1		2.1	-2.3	<b>2.1</b>		<b>0.1</b>
Q3	-1.1	-1.6	-14.5		0.8	-0.9	<b>-0.6</b>		<b>1.0</b>
Q4	1.1	-2.7	5.8		0.1	-1.1	<b>0.9</b>		<b>-0.3</b>
2012									
Q1	-1.5	1.6	14.3		2.1	5.2	<b>-0.3</b>		<b>0.4</b>
Q2	-0.1	-2.9	-14.9		-0.4	-5.3	<b>0.7</b>		<b>4.7</b>
Q3	0.7	-0.2	5.6		-0.0	1.9	<b>-0.4</b>		<b>-1.1</b>
Q4	1.0	-0.7	-0.1		0.5	0.8	<b>-0.0</b>		<b>-0.8</b>



**Annex 2 Transportable Goods Industries & Utilities Sector and Building & Construction Sector at Constant Factor Cost -  
(Chain linked annually and referenced to year 2010) - Non-Seasonally Adjusted and Seasonally Adjusted** € million

Period	NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			SEASONALLY ADJUSTED		
	Industry	of which Transportable Goods Industries and Utilities	of which Building and construct.	Industry	of which Transportable Goods Industries and Utilities	of which Building and construct.
2007						
Q1	11,009	9,440	1,240	10,786	9,176	1,260
Q2	10,580	9,236	1,151	10,181	8,589	1,199
Q3	10,166	8,440	1,213	10,654	9,181	1,180
Q4	10,664	9,052	1,223	10,938	9,382	1,188
2008						
Q1	10,680	9,123	1,210	10,359	8,729	1,237
Q2	10,685	9,406	1,125	10,230	8,792	1,168
Q3	9,728	8,153	1,150	10,143	8,777	1,115
Q4	8,742	7,303	1,041	9,185	7,709	1,011
2009						
Q1	9,941	9,046	900	9,551	8,632	922
Q2	9,784	9,081	814	9,265	8,430	845
Q3	8,273	7,383	808	8,655	7,888	784
Q4	7,855	7,045	753	8,364	7,574	730
2010						
Q1	9,803	9,210	594	9,366	8,698	615
Q2	9,497	8,901	596	8,913	8,268	611
Q3	8,529	7,896	631	8,958	8,399	616
Q4	8,697	8,104	593	9,344	8,818	572
2011						
Q1	9,646	9,136	510	9,251	8,679	527
Q2	9,749	9,248	501	9,047	8,483	513
Q3	8,872	8,375	497	9,311	8,886	490
Q4	8,901	8,404	497	9,622	9,224	478
2012						
Q1	9,883	9,421	462	9,476	8,870	482
Q2	10,528	10,058	470	9,742	9,274	474
Q3	8,858	8,427	432	9,262	8,924	429
Q4	7,999	7,507	493	8,714	8,259	472
<i>Percentage change on corresponding period of previous year</i>				<i>Percentage change on previous quarter</i>		
2007						
Q1	4.2	4.1	4.3	1.8	1.4	6.2
Q2	-8.4	-12.1	1.2	-5.6	-6.4	-4.9
Q3	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	4.6	6.9	-1.6
Q4	1.0	1.3	-0.2	2.7	2.2	0.7
2008						
Q1	-3.0	-3.3	-2.4	-5.3	-7.0	4.1
Q2	1.0	1.8	-2.3	-1.3	0.7	-5.6
Q3	-4.3	-3.4	-5.1	-0.8	-0.2	-4.5
Q4	-18.0	-19.3	-14.9	-9.4	-12.2	-9.3
2009						
Q1	-6.9	-0.8	-25.6	4.0	12.0	-8.8
Q2	-8.4	-3.5	-27.6	-3.0	-2.3	-8.3
Q3	-15.0	-9.4	-29.7	-6.6	-6.4	-7.2
Q4	-10.1	-3.5	-27.7	-3.4	-4.0	-6.9
2010						
Q1	-1.4	1.8	-34.0	12.0	14.8	-15.7
Q2	-2.9	-2.0	-26.8	-4.8	-4.9	-0.8
Q3	3.1	7.0	-21.9	0.5	1.6	1.0
Q4	10.7	15.0	-21.3	4.3	5.0	-7.2
2011						
Q1	-1.6	-0.8	-14.1	-1.0	-1.6	-7.8
Q2	2.7	3.9	-15.9	-2.2	-2.3	-2.7
Q3	4.0	6.1	-21.2	2.9	4.8	-4.4
Q4	2.3	3.7	-16.2	3.3	3.8	-2.5
2012						
Q1	2.5	3.1	-9.4	-1.5	-3.8	0.9
Q2	8.0	8.8	-6.2	2.8	4.6	-1.6
Q3	-0.2	0.6	-13.2	-4.9	-3.8	-9.5
Q4	-10.1	-10.7	-0.8	-5.9	-7.4	10.1





## Background Notes

**Introduction** This release gives the official quarterly national accounts estimates for Ireland. It provides the first set of results for quarter 4 of 2012 and preliminary results for the year 2012. 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 the first three quarters of 2012.

**Nace classification** In compliance with EU regulations the Nace Rev. 2 classification system is used in tables 1, 4 and Annex 2. (The national classification system that was used up to and including the Q4 2011 QNA results that were published in March 2012 was replaced with the Nace Rev. 2 classification system in the Q1 2012 results published in July 2012).

The results for the economy are shown for five sectors. The contents of the sectors conform to the Nace Rev. 2 system. The “Publishing” industry is classified in the sector “Distribution, transport, software and communication”. In addition, enterprises in the Hotels and catering sector are classified to the “Distribution” sector. The “Software” industry is also part of the “Distribution, transport, software and communications” category in the NACE rev 2 classification.

In tables 1 and 4 the following is the correspondence with the relevant sections of Nace Rev. 2:

Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Section A
Industry	Sections B to F
Distribution, transport, software & communications	Sections G to J
Public Administration and Defence	Section O
Other Services	Sections K to N and P to U

For further information on the Nace Rev. 2 classification of industrial activity, visit the CSO website:

<http://www.cso.ie/en/surveysandmethodology/classifications/classificationofindustrialactivity>.

**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 2012 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 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 2010 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, Software 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** Seasonal adjustment is conducted using the direct seasonal adjustment approach. Under this approach each individual time series is independently adjusted, e.g. aggregate series are adjusted without reference to the component 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. As part of the seasonal adjustment process, ARIMA models are identified for each series based on unadjusted data spanning Q1 1997 to Q1 2012. These models are then applied to the entire series (Q1 1997 to Q4 2012). Seasonal factors and the parameters of the ARIMA models are updated each quarter.

The adjustments are completed by applying the X-12-ARIMA model, developed by the U.S. Census Bureau to the unadjusted data. This methodology estimates seasonal factors while also taking into consideration factors that impact on the quality of the seasonal adjustment such as, for example:

- Calendar effects, e.g. the timing of Easter
- Outliers, temporary changes and level shifts in the series

For additional information on the use of X-12-ARIMA see (Findley, D.F., B.C. Monsell, W.R. Bell, M.C. Otto, and B. Chen (1998), "New Capabilities and Methods of the X-12-Arima Seasonal Adjustment Program", Journal of Business & Economic Statistics, 16, pp. 127-177.)