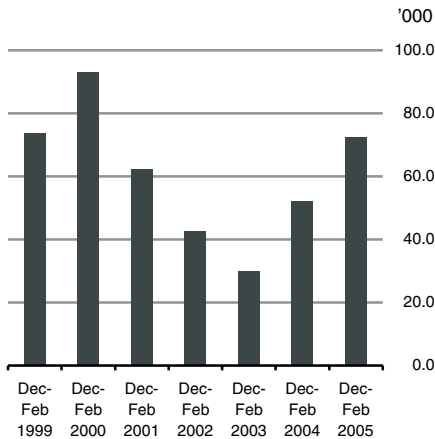




**Annual Increase in Employment in the First Quarters 1999 to 2005**



## Quarterly National Household Survey Quarter 1 2005

### ILO Labour Force

	In Employment	Unemployed	Labour Force
<b>Dec-Feb 2004</b>	1,835.9	83.6	1,919.5
<b>Mar-May 2004</b>	1,836.2	84.2	1,920.3
<b>Jun-Aug 2004</b>	1,893.6	93.9	1,987.5
<b>Sep-Nov 2004</b>	1,894.1	85.6	1,979.7
<b>Dec-Feb 2005</b>	1,908.3	82.1	1,990.5
<i>Change in quarter</i>	<i>+14.2</i>	<i>-3.5</i>	<i>+10.8</i>
<i>Change in year</i>	<i>+72.4</i>	<i>-1.5</i>	<i>+71.0</i>

### Employment increases by over 70,000

The number of persons in employment grew by 72,400 in the year to reach 1,908,300 in the first quarter of 2005. This is the highest level of annual growth (+3.9%) recorded since the fourth quarter of 2000. The number of women in employment increased over the year by 40,000 (+5.2%), of which 17,600 was accounted for by a rise in the number of part-time workers. The number of males at work increased by 32,500 (+3.0%) over the same period. *See table 1 & graph.*

There were 82,100 persons unemployed in the first quarter of 2005, representing a decrease of 1,500 in the year. The number of persons in short-term unemployment increased by 1,200 to 54,100 whereas the long-term unemployed fell by 2,700 to 27,800. *See tables 1, 17 & 18.*

When seasonal factors are taken into account the number of persons in employment increased by 20,200 in the quarter while the numbers unemployed decreased by 2,100. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.2% compared with 4.4% in the previous quarter and 4.5% in the first quarter of 2004. *See table 3.*

Overall, the labour force increased by 71,000 to 1,990,500 in the year to the first quarter of 2005. This accounted for 61.0% of all persons aged 15 and over compared with 60.1% in the first quarter of 2004. The female participation rate rose strongly from 49.5% to 50.9% while that for males increased more modestly from 71.1% to 71.4%. *See table 1.*

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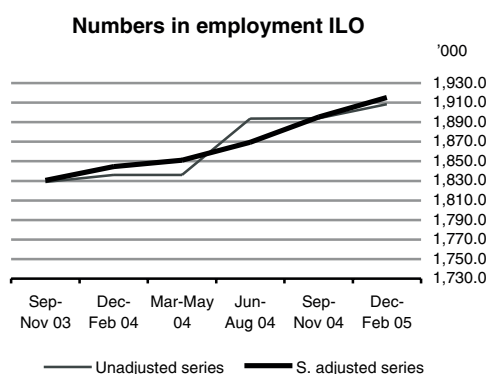
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## Construction sector continues to grow strongly

The *Construction* sector continued to show strong growth in the year to the first quarter of 2005 increasing by over 30,800 to 233,100. Strong growth was also recorded in the *Financial and other business services* sector (+18,500). With the exception of *Hotels and Restaurants*, where there was a decline of just under 1,000, other areas in the services sector recorded employment growth to varying degrees. *Agriculture, forestry and fishing* continued to show a decline (-6,400) while there was virtually no change in the numbers employed in *Other production industries*. See table 2b.

Most occupational categories increased in the year. The largest increases were in *Craft and related* (+24,500) and *Clerical and secretarial* (+20,300). See table 4.

There were 1,575,100 employees in the first quarter of 2005, an annual increase of 67,200. This comprised an increase of 37,600 females and 29,600 males. The number of self-employed persons increased by 5,800 to 319,100 in the year while the number of persons assisting relatives fell slightly to 14,200. See table 6.



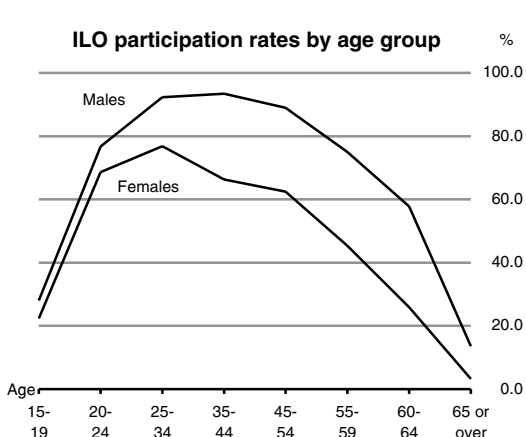
## Employment rates continue to rise

The employment rate for persons aged 15-64 continued to rise in the year to the first quarter of 2005 from 65.7% to 66.8%. The rates for males and females both increased over the year, with the male rate rising from 75.4% to 76.0% and the female rate rising from 55.9% to 57.5%. Strong employment rate growth was particularly evident for females aged 45-54 with their employment rate increasing from 57.5% to 60.9% over the year. See table 12.

The number of persons in part-time employment increased by 18,600 in the year to the first quarter of 2005. Almost all (17,600) of this rise was accounted for by increased numbers of females taking up part-time work. The sectors that showed the largest annual increases were *Health* (+5,600) and *Financial and other business services* (+3,800).

The average working week in the first quarter of 2005 was 36.9 hours, down from the 37.1 hours recorded in the same quarter last year. This decline can be attributed to an increase in the number of persons working *variable* hours and a reduction in the number of persons working *45 & over* hours a week. See table 5.

## Labour force growth



Demographic factors, such as the increase in the population of working age and changes in its age structure, added an estimated 49,000 to the labour force over the year. Net inward migration is estimated to have accounted for close to half (25,000) of this increase.

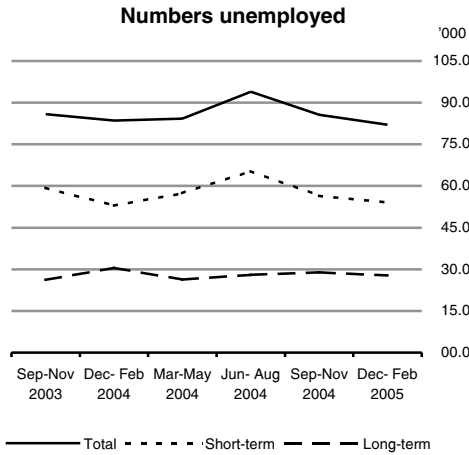
The balance of 22,000 in the labour force increase was due to higher labour force participation rates. The most significant increase in participation was recorded for those aged 45-54 (73.9% to 75.7%), which was very much driven by increased female participation. There was an increase of 21,200 in the number of married women in the labour force and their participation rate rose by 1.9 percentage points from 48.8% to 50.7%. See tables 1, 9 & 15.

Since the third quarter of 2003 the importance of increased participation, particularly for females, to the overall labour force growth has been evident. In that quarter just over 8% of the overall annual increase was attributable to increased participation while in the first quarter of 2005 almost 31% of the labour force growth can be attributed to this factor.

The broadest survey-based labour supply indicator, S3, which includes persons outside the labour force who show some interest in obtaining work as well as the

unemployed, decreased from 7.8% in the first quarter of 2004 to 7.5% in the first quarter of 2005. See tables 1, 19 & 20.

### Slight decline in numbers unemployed



There were 51,500 males and 30,600 females unemployed in the first quarter of 2005, representing an annual decrease of 1,100 for males and 400 for females. The largest annual decrease in the numbers unemployed was concentrated in the 35-44 year age group where the numbers decreased by 1,400 to 16,200. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased over the quarter from 4.4% to 4.2%. See tables 3 & 13.

Long-term unemployment is estimated to have decreased over the year by 2,700 while short-term unemployment increased by 1,200 over the same period. Those aged 25-44 (-2,400) showed the largest decrease in long term unemployment. The increase in short-term unemployment was concentrated in the 45 and over age group (+1,500). The long-term unemployment rate decreased from 1.6% a year ago to 1.4% this quarter. See tables 16, 17 & 18.

### Regional comparisons

Employment grew by 16,200 (+3.4%) in the Border, Midland and Western region and by 56,200 (+4.1%) in the Southern and Eastern region in the year to the first quarter of 2005. Most of the annual fall in unemployment occurred in the Southern and Eastern region (-1,300). See table 7a.

The participation rate in the Southern and Eastern increased from 60.6% to 61.6% between the first quarters of 2004 and 2005. The participation rate in the Border, Midland and Western region increased more moderately from 58.8% to 59.2% over the same period.

At NUTS3 level employment grew in all regions with the Mid-East (+6.2%) and the Midlands (+5.1%) showing the highest employment growth rates over the year.

### Principal Economic Status

The number of persons describing their usual situation as “at work” grew by 68,900 in the year to 1,835,700. This comprised an increase of 31,800 males and 37,100 females. This compares to an increase of 57,500 in the year to the first quarter of 2004. Meanwhile, the numbers describing themselves as “unemployed” fell by 4,200 in the year to 110,100. See table 21.

The numbers describing themselves as “on home duties” decreased by almost 6,000 to 551,900 in the year. See table 21.

The number of students increased slightly in the year to 374,100. In the first quarter of 2005 16.3% of students had a job compared to 15.4% for the same quarter last year and this represented an increase of 3,500 in the number of students with a job. See table 22.

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## Tables

**Table 1 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex and ILO Economic Status**

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ILO Economic Status	Dec- Feb 03	Sep- Nov 03	Dec- Feb 04	Mar- May 04	Jun- Aug 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05
<b>Males</b>							
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>1,091.4</b>	<b>1,114.5</b>	<b>1,118.4</b>	<b>1,119.6</b>	<b>1,156.0</b>	<b>1,145.2</b>	<b>1,149.8</b>
In employment:	1,037.3	1,061.1	1,065.8	1,065.2	1,098.3	1,092.4	1,098.3
full-time	967.7	994.9	997.0	1,000.2	1,030.4	1,027.7	1,028.5
part-time:	69.6	66.3	68.8	64.9	67.9	64.7	69.8
of which: part-time, not underemployed <sup>1</sup>	67.7	64.3	66.9	63.5	65.8	63.6	68.2
part-time, underemployed <sup>1</sup>	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.5	2.1	1.0	1.6
Unemployed:	54.2	53.3	52.6	54.4	57.7	52.8	51.5
seeking full-time work	51.1	49.6	50.1	52.1	54.4	50.8	48.9
seeking part-time work	3.0	3.7	2.5	2.3	3.3	2.0	2.6
<b>Not in labour force</b>	<b>455.0</b>	<b>452.1</b>	<b>454.1</b>	<b>459.1</b>	<b>431.4</b>	<b>456.4</b>	<b>461.5</b>
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	8.1	7.0	7.8	6.3	7.7	7.9	7.3
Others	446.9	445.1	446.2	452.8	423.8	448.5	454.2
<b>Total males aged 15 or over</b>	<b>1,546.4</b>	<b>1,566.6</b>	<b>1,572.4</b>	<b>1,578.7</b>	<b>1,587.4</b>	<b>1,601.6</b>	<b>1,611.3</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>71.4</b>
<b>Females</b>							
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>777.3</b>	<b>800.3</b>	<b>801.1</b>	<b>800.8</b>	<b>831.5</b>	<b>834.5</b>	<b>840.7</b>
In employment:	746.3	767.8	770.1	771.0	795.3	801.7	810.1
full-time	514.8	529.2	530.2	524.8	545.8	549.8	552.5
part-time:	231.6	238.6	240.0	246.2	249.5	251.9	257.6
of which: part-time, not underemployed <sup>1</sup>	230.0	236.6	238.1	243.9	247.6	250.0	256.1
part-time, underemployed <sup>1</sup>	1.5	2.0	1.9	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.4
Unemployed:	31.0	32.6	31.0	29.8	36.2	32.8	30.6
seeking full-time work	20.5	21.3	20.7	19.6	25.7	21.4	20.2
seeking part-time work	10.5	11.2	10.3	10.2	10.5	11.4	10.4
<b>Not in labour force</b>	<b>815.2</b>	<b>813.0</b>	<b>818.5</b>	<b>821.1</b>	<b>799.5</b>	<b>809.6</b>	<b>810.9</b>
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	4.6	3.9	4.4	3.6	5.8	3.4	4.8
Others	810.5	809.1	814.1	817.5	793.7	806.3	806.2
<b>Total females aged 15 or over</b>	<b>1,592.5</b>	<b>1,613.4</b>	<b>1,619.6</b>	<b>1,621.9</b>	<b>1,631.0</b>	<b>1,644.1</b>	<b>1,651.7</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>50.9</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>1,868.7</b>	<b>1,914.8</b>	<b>1,919.5</b>	<b>1,920.3</b>	<b>1,987.5</b>	<b>1,979.7</b>	<b>1,990.5</b>
In employment:	1,783.6	1,828.9	1,835.9	1,836.2	1,893.6	1,894.1	1,908.3
full-time	1,482.4	1,524.1	1,527.1	1,525.0	1,576.2	1,577.5	1,581.0
part-time:	301.1	304.8	308.8	311.1	317.4	316.5	327.4
of which: part-time, not underemployed <sup>1</sup>	297.7	300.9	305.0	307.4	313.4	313.6	324.3
part-time, underemployed <sup>1</sup>	3.4	3.9	3.8	3.7	4.0	2.9	3.0
Unemployed:	85.2	85.9	83.6	84.2	93.9	85.6	82.1
seeking full-time work	71.6	70.9	70.8	71.7	80.1	72.2	69.1
seeking part-time work	13.5	15.0	12.8	12.4	13.8	13.4	13.0
<b>Not in labour force</b>	<b>1,270.1</b>	<b>1,265.1</b>	<b>1,272.5</b>	<b>1,280.3</b>	<b>1,230.9</b>	<b>1,266.0</b>	<b>1,272.5</b>
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	12.7	10.9	12.2	10.0	13.4	11.3	12.1
Others	1,257.4	1,254.2	1,260.3	1,270.3	1,217.5	1,254.8	1,260.4
<b>Total persons aged 15 or over</b>	<b>3,138.9</b>	<b>3,179.9</b>	<b>3,192.0</b>	<b>3,200.6</b>	<b>3,218.4</b>	<b>3,245.7</b>	<b>3,262.9</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>61.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 2a Persons aged 15 years and over in employment (ILO) classified by sex and broad economic sector**

	'000						
Broad economic sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Dec- Feb 03	Sep- Nov 03	Dec- Feb 04	Mar- May 04	Jun- Aug 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05
<b>Males</b>							
A-B Agriculture	104.9	111.3	107.6	105.8	108.9	102.3	101.5
C-F Industry	397.7	401.5	404.7	404.5	423.7	429.6	431.8
G-Q Services	534.7	548.3	553.4	554.8	565.6	560.6	565.0
<b>Females</b>							
A-B Agriculture	12.5	12.1	11.3	11.1	10.9	10.2	11.0
C-F Industry	96.9	96.4	95.1	102.1	103.6	98.9	98.6
G-Q Services	636.9	659.2	663.8	657.8	680.8	692.6	700.5
<b>All persons</b>							
A-B Agriculture	117.4	123.4	118.9	117.0	119.9	112.5	112.5
C-F Industry	494.6	498.0	499.8	506.5	527.3	528.5	530.4
G-Q Services	1,171.6	1,207.6	1,217.2	1,212.7	1,246.5	1,253.2	1,265.4
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>1,783.6</b>	<b>1,828.9</b>	<b>1,835.9</b>	<b>1,836.2</b>	<b>1,893.6</b>	<b>1,894.1</b>	<b>1,908.3</b>

**Table 2b Persons aged 15 years and over in employment (ILO) classified by sex and NACE economic sector**

	'000						
Economic sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Dec- Feb 03	Sep- Nov 03	Dec- Feb 04	Mar- May 04	Jun- Aug 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05
<b>Males</b>							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	104.9	111.3	107.6	105.8	108.9	102.3	101.5
C-E Other production industries	218.0	209.7	211.8	208.8	212.1	212.2	210.0
F Construction	179.7	191.8	192.9	195.7	211.6	217.4	221.8
G Wholesale and retail trade	129.2	130.5	133.2	131.3	137.0	134.6	134.3
H Hotels and restaurants	46.5	49.1	49.7	49.4	48.4	45.7	48.2
I Transport, storage and communication	83.8	84.4	84.7	87.2	89.4	90.5	90.4
J-K Financial and other business services	114.4	116.8	116.4	120.9	123.0	123.0	123.7
L Public administration and defence	50.1	50.4	48.7	48.8	48.2	46.7	48.5
M Education	35.2	34.9	34.6	33.2	35.1	35.0	34.6
N Health	32.9	34.8	34.6	33.8	33.7	33.4	32.9
O-Q Other services	42.7	47.4	51.6	50.3	50.8	51.6	52.4
<b>Total males</b>	<b>1,037.3</b>	<b>1,061.1</b>	<b>1,065.8</b>	<b>1,065.2</b>	<b>1,098.3</b>	<b>1,092.4</b>	<b>1,098.3</b>
<b>Females</b>							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	12.5	12.1	11.3	11.1	10.9	10.2	11.0
C-E Other production industries	87.7	87.6	85.6	91.8	93.4	88.9	87.2
F Construction	9.2	8.8	9.4	10.3	10.1	10.0	11.4
G Wholesale and retail trade	124.0	125.9	130.2	128.9	133.2	130.9	133.3
H Hotels and restaurants	63.6	66.3	63.4	58.4	67.7	66.9	64.0
I Transport, storage and communication	28.1	30.2	28.7	26.0	25.4	25.2	25.3
J-K Financial and other business services	111.7	114.4	118.0	116.1	120.0	124.7	129.2
L Public administration and defence	40.2	40.2	41.2	40.7	45.3	47.6	47.9
M Education	80.7	83.2	84.9	84.7	77.3	83.5	85.2
N Health	135.0	141.0	142.6	143.3	148.4	149.1	152.6
O-Q Other services	53.6	57.9	54.8	59.7	63.6	64.7	63.0
<b>Total females</b>	<b>746.3</b>	<b>767.8</b>	<b>770.1</b>	<b>771.0</b>	<b>795.3</b>	<b>801.7</b>	<b>810.1</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	117.4	123.4	118.9	117.0	119.9	112.5	112.5
C-E Other production industries	305.8	297.3	297.4	300.6	305.6	301.1	297.3
F Construction	188.8	200.6	202.3	206.0	221.7	227.4	233.1
G Wholesale and retail trade	253.3	256.5	263.4	260.2	270.2	265.4	267.6
H Hotels and restaurants	110.0	115.4	113.1	107.8	116.1	112.6	112.3
I Transport, storage and communication	111.9	114.6	113.4	113.2	114.8	115.7	115.7
J-K Financial and other business services	226.1	231.3	234.4	237.0	243.1	247.7	252.9
L Public administration and defence	90.2	90.6	89.9	89.5	93.5	94.4	96.4
M Education	115.9	118.1	119.4	117.9	112.3	118.5	119.8
N Health	167.8	175.8	177.2	177.0	182.1	182.5	185.5
O-Q Other services	96.3	105.3	106.4	110.0	114.4	116.3	115.4
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>1,783.6</b>	<b>1,828.9</b>	<b>1,835.9</b>	<b>1,836.2</b>	<b>1,893.6</b>	<b>1,894.1</b>	<b>1,908.3</b>



**Table 3 Seasonally Adjusted Series<sup>1</sup> of persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex, ILO economic status and NACE Economic Sector**

'000

ILO Economic Status/ NACE Economic Sector	Dec- Feb 03	Sep- Nov 03	Dec- Feb 04	Mar- May 04	Jun- Aug 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05
<b>Males</b>							
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>1,098.7</b>	<b>1,115.8</b>	<b>1,124.7</b>	<b>1,129.5</b>	<b>1,138.6</b>	<b>1,146.5</b>	<b>1,155.6</b>
<b>In employment:</b>	<b>1,044.0</b>	<b>1,061.8</b>	<b>1,071.4</b>	<b>1,074.0</b>	<b>1,083.5</b>	<b>1,093.1</b>	<b>1,103.2</b>
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	106.2	109.7	108.9	107.7	107.4	100.8	102.6
C-E Other production industries	218.5	210.5	211.9	210.5	209.8	212.9	209.9
F Construction	181.0	190.3	194.4	199.0	208.3	215.6	223.4
G Wholesale and retail trade	129.3	131.0	133.2	133.1	134.7	135.0	134.3
H Hotels and restaurants	46.7	50.3	49.9	49.6	47.0	46.8	48.3
I Transport, storage and communication	84.5	84.2	85.4	87.3	88.7	90.3	91.2
J-K Financial and other business services	115.9	117.4	117.8	120.1	121.8	123.6	125.2
L Public administration and defence	50.6	51.2	49.2	48.6	47.2	47.5	49.0
M Education	35.1	34.7	34.5	33.3	35.3	34.7	34.5
N Health	33.0	34.3	34.6	34.0	34.0	33.0	32.9
O-Q Other services	42.9	47.3	51.5	50.6	50.7	51.5	52.1
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>52.8</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>71.8</b>
<b>Females</b>							
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>783.0</b>	<b>802.5</b>	<b>805.8</b>	<b>809.4</b>	<b>816.5</b>	<b>836.4</b>	<b>844.9</b>
<b>In employment:</b>	<b>750.8</b>	<b>769.0</b>	<b>773.3</b>	<b>777.1</b>	<b>785.6</b>	<b>802.4</b>	<b>812.5</b>
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	12.6	12.6	11.4	10.9	10.5	10.6	11.2
C-E Other production industries	89.4	88.1	87.6	92.5	90.1	89.6	89.3
F Construction	9.2	8.9	9.4	10.4	9.8	10.2	11.4
G Wholesale and retail trade	124.0	127.8	130.1	130.5	130.0	132.8	133.0
H Hotels and restaurants	65.1	65.5	64.8	62.2	63.4	66.0	65.3
I Transport, storage and communication	28.1	30.0	28.5	26.6	25.3	25.0	25.0
J-K Financial and other business services	111.5	114.7	117.1	117.4	119.6	125.0	127.8
L Public administration and defence	40.9	40.4	41.9	40.5	44.5	47.7	48.8
M Education	78.9	82.4	82.7	82.9	82.1	82.7	82.9
N Health	135.0	141.6	142.4	143.9	147.4	149.7	152.3
O-Q Other services	55.0	57.3	56.3	60.3	62.1	63.9	64.7
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>32.2</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>51.2</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>1,881.6</b>	<b>1,917.5</b>	<b>1,930.5</b>	<b>1,938.6</b>	<b>1,956.3</b>	<b>1,982.0</b>	<b>2,000.4</b>
<b>In employment:</b>	<b>1,794.6</b>	<b>1,830.5</b>	<b>1,844.6</b>	<b>1,851.2</b>	<b>1,869.5</b>	<b>1,895.2</b>	<b>1,915.4</b>
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	118.9	122.1	120.4	118.9	117.8	111.3	113.9
C-E Other production industries	308.6	298.9	300.3	302.8	299.0	302.8	300.3
F Construction	190.1	199.3	203.7	209.5	218.0	225.9	234.6
G Wholesale and retail trade	253.5	258.8	263.3	263.5	264.8	267.6	267.3
H Hotels and restaurants	112.0	115.9	114.9	111.4	110.5	113.0	113.9
I Transport, storage and communication	112.7	114.2	114.1	113.9	114.0	115.1	116.3
J-K Financial and other business services	227.0	232.1	234.9	237.6	241.4	248.5	253.0
L Public administration and defence	91.1	91.6	90.6	89.6	91.7	95.4	97.1
M Education	113.9	117.1	117.2	116.5	117.1	117.4	117.4
N Health	167.9	175.9	176.8	177.9	181.4	182.8	184.9
O-Q Other services	97.7	104.5	107.8	111.5	112.5	115.2	116.7
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>84.7</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>61.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.



**Table 4 Persons aged 15 years and over in employment (ILO) classified by sex and occupation**

'000

Broad occupational group	Dec- Feb 03	Sep- Nov 03	Dec- Feb 04	Mar- May 04	Jun- Aug 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05
<b>Males</b>							
1. Managers and administrators	222.6	222.4	230.2	227.1	227.7	221.8	220.7
2. Professional	106.5	110.2	109.0	108.4	107.5	110.2	108.3
3. Associate professional and technical	67.9	72.4	72.1	72.3	69.2	67.9	68.5
4. Clerical and secretarial	52.0	52.3	50.9	53.1	56.3	58.8	58.1
5. Craft and related	227.6	232.3	232.4	231.3	244.0	251.5	256.5
6. Personal and protective service	73.1	73.7	74.9	72.8	74.3	73.2	75.3
7. Sales	55.5	57.6	58.8	59.0	59.3	59.2	61.8
8. Plant and machine operatives	139.9	135.1	131.6	130.3	138.0	137.7	140.0
9. Other	92.1	105.1	105.8	111.0	122.0	112.1	109.0
<b>Total males</b>	<b>1,037.3</b>	<b>1,061.1</b>	<b>1,065.8</b>	<b>1,065.2</b>	<b>1,098.3</b>	<b>1,092.4</b>	<b>1,098.3</b>
<b>Females</b>							
1. Managers and administrators	89.3	86.5	93.5	92.1	89.5	91.0	96.4
2. Professional	93.6	95.3	99.6	103.0	97.7	101.7	101.5
3. Associate professional and technical	91.9	96.1	93.4	94.8	96.1	98.5	97.8
4. Clerical and secretarial	166.4	169.7	168.0	167.6	171.2	174.7	181.1
5. Craft and related	14.1	13.2	11.9	12.4	13.0	11.2	12.3
6. Personal and protective service	107.2	115.2	114.3	112.6	124.1	122.6	124.0
7. Sales	90.9	93.9	96.0	93.3	100.6	99.5	101.0
8. Plant and machine operatives	36.2	33.3	30.2	29.1	32.6	31.6	29.7
9. Other	56.7	64.6	63.2	66.1	70.3	70.8	66.2
<b>Total females</b>	<b>746.3</b>	<b>767.8</b>	<b>770.1</b>	<b>771.0</b>	<b>795.3</b>	<b>801.7</b>	<b>810.1</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
1. Managers and administrators	312.0	308.9	323.7	319.2	317.2	312.8	317.2
2. Professional	200.1	205.5	208.5	211.4	205.3	211.9	209.9
3. Associate professional and technical	159.8	168.5	165.6	167.1	165.4	166.4	166.3
4. Clerical and secretarial	218.4	222.0	218.9	220.7	227.6	233.5	239.2
5. Craft and related	241.7	245.5	244.3	243.6	256.9	262.8	268.8
6. Personal and protective service	180.3	188.9	189.3	185.4	198.4	195.9	199.3
7. Sales	146.3	151.5	154.9	152.3	159.9	158.7	162.8
8. Plant and machine operatives	176.0	168.4	161.8	159.4	170.7	169.2	169.7
9. Other	148.8	169.7	168.9	177.0	192.3	182.9	175.3
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>1,783.6</b>	<b>1,828.9</b>	<b>1,835.9</b>	<b>1,836.2</b>	<b>1,893.6</b>	<b>1,894.1</b>	<b>1,908.3</b>

**Table 5 Persons aged 15 years and over in employment (ILO) classified by sex and usual hours of work**

'000

Usual hours per week	Dec-Feb 03	Sep-Nov 03	Dec-Feb 04	Mar-May 04	Jun-Aug 04	Sep-Nov 04	Dec-Feb 05
<b>Males</b>							
1-9 hours	8.4	7.4	8.8	9.1	5.4	6.4	8.6
10-19	20.9	18.3	19.4	17.4	14.7	15.7	18.4
20-29	36.1	35.5	36.4	35.6	38.2	36.6	37.7
30-34	17.1	17.5	17.3	18.8	19.6	18.6	18.1
35-39	361.9	371.2	370.3	375.6	396.2	392.4	391.3
40-44	230.2	245.7	250.1	250.5	260.5	253.6	253.5
45 & over	195.7	208.5	202.3	198.9	193.7	195.7	196.0
Variable hours <sup>1</sup>	167.0	157.0	161.2	159.3	170.2	173.5	174.7
<b>Total males</b>	<b>1,037.3</b>	<b>1,061.1</b>	<b>1,065.8</b>	<b>1,065.2</b>	<b>1,098.3</b>	<b>1,092.4</b>	<b>1,098.3</b>
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>41.6</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>41.0</i>
<b>Females</b>							
1-9 hours	20.6	21.4	21.9	22.5	17.5	20.5	23.6
10-19	73.3	73.8	74.4	77.8	75.7	79.7	81.0
20-29	141.5	147.7	148.7	152.2	156.9	156.4	159.2
30-34	44.0	48.2	48.6	49.9	46.8	48.8	49.1
35-39	293.6	300.2	300.9	293.6	315.7	313.7	309.9
40-44	98.4	98.6	98.0	98.8	104.1	101.8	104.2
45 & over	32.7	32.4	34.3	32.6	31.3	31.2	32.2
Variable hours <sup>1</sup>	42.1	45.5	43.3	43.7	47.3	49.6	50.9
<b>Total females</b>	<b>746.3</b>	<b>767.8</b>	<b>770.1</b>	<b>771.0</b>	<b>795.3</b>	<b>801.7</b>	<b>810.1</b>
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>32.2</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>32.0</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>32.2</i>	<i>32.0</i>	<i>31.8</i>
<b>All persons</b>							
1-9 hours	28.9	28.8	30.7	31.6	22.9	27.0	32.2
10-19	94.1	92.1	93.7	95.2	90.4	95.4	99.4
20-29	177.6	183.2	185.2	187.8	195.1	193.0	196.9
30-34	61.2	65.7	66.0	68.7	66.4	67.3	67.2
35-39	655.5	671.5	671.2	669.1	711.8	706.1	701.2
40-44	328.6	344.3	348.1	349.3	364.6	355.3	357.7
45 & over	228.4	240.9	236.6	231.5	225.0	226.9	228.2
Variable hours <sup>1</sup>	209.2	202.5	204.5	203.0	217.5	223.1	225.6
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>1,783.6</b>	<b>1,828.9</b>	<b>1,835.9</b>	<b>1,836.2</b>	<b>1,893.6</b>	<b>1,894.1</b>	<b>1,908.3</b>
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>37.2</i>	<i>37.4</i>	<i>37.1</i>	<i>37.0</i>	<i>37.2</i>	<i>37.1</i>	<i>36.9</i>

<sup>1</sup> Includes 'not stated'.

**Table 6 Persons aged 15 years and over in employment (ILO) classified by employment status**

'000

Employment status	Dec- Feb 03	Sep- Nov 03	<sup>1</sup> Dec- Feb 04	Mar- May 04	Jun- Aug 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05
<b>Males</b>							
Self employed (with paid employees)	83.2	87.4	87.9	85.6	88.9	88.7	90.0
Self employed (with no paid employees)	166.6	173.7	175.5	177.0	176.4	172.8	177.5
Employee	779.6	792.7	794.5	796.2	825.0	823.5	824.1
Assisting relative	7.9	7.3	7.9	6.4	8.1	7.4	6.7
<b>Total males</b>	<b>1,037.3</b>	<b>1,061.1</b>	<b>1,065.8</b>	<b>1,065.2</b>	<b>1,098.3</b>	<b>1,092.4</b>	<b>1,098.3</b>
<b>Females</b>							
Self employed (with paid employees)	17.6	18.7	19.2	20.5	20.9	21.9	20.5
Self employed (with no paid employees)	29.7	31.4	30.7	32.5	31.1	31.3	31.1
Employee	689.8	710.0	713.4	710.9	736.9	741.6	751.0
Assisting relative	9.2	7.6	6.8	7.1	6.5	6.9	7.5
<b>Total females</b>	<b>746.3</b>	<b>767.8</b>	<b>770.1</b>	<b>771.0</b>	<b>795.3</b>	<b>801.7</b>	<b>810.1</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
Self employed (with paid employees)	100.8	106.1	107.1	106.1	109.7	110.6	110.5
Self employed (with no paid employees)	196.3	205.2	206.2	209.5	207.4	204.1	208.6
Employee	1,469.4	1,502.8	1,507.9	1,507.1	1,561.9	1,565.1	1,575.1
Assisting relative	17.1	14.9	14.6	13.5	14.5	14.3	14.2
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>1,783.6</b>	<b>1,828.9</b>	<b>1,835.9</b>	<b>1,836.2</b>	<b>1,893.6</b>	<b>1,894.1</b>	<b>1,908.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> Contains revised figures**Table 7a Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS2 regions<sup>1</sup> and ILO Economic Status**

Region (NUTS2)	In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	'000	'000	'000	%	%
<b>Border, Midland and Western</b>					
Dec-Feb 2003	447.8	25.1	472.9	5.3	57.4
Sep-Nov 2003	465.9	23.8	489.7	4.9	58.3
Dec-Feb 2004	473.8	22.3	496.1	4.5	58.8
Mar-May 2004	468.9	22.3	491.2	4.5	58.1
Jun-Aug 2004	489.8	25.2	515.1	4.9	60.4
Sep-Nov 2004	490.8	23.4	514.2	4.6	59.7
Dec-Feb 2005	490.0	22.2	512.2	4.3	59.2
<b>Southern and Eastern</b>					
Dec-Feb 2003	1,335.8	60.0	1,395.8	4.3	60.3
Sep-Nov 2003	1,363.0	62.1	1,425.1	4.4	60.9
Dec-Feb 2004	1,362.1	61.3	1,423.4	4.3	60.6
Mar-May 2004	1,367.3	61.9	1,429.2	4.3	60.7
Jun-Aug 2004	1,403.8	68.6	1,472.4	4.7	62.2
Sep-Nov 2004	1,403.3	62.2	1,465.5	4.2	61.5
Dec-Feb 2005	1,418.3	60.0	1,478.3	4.1	61.6
<b>State</b>					
Dec-Feb 2003	1,783.6	85.2	1,868.7	4.6	59.5
Sep-Nov 2003	1,828.9	85.9	1,914.8	4.5	60.2
Dec-Feb 2004	1,835.9	83.6	1,919.5	4.4	60.1
Mar-May 2004	1,836.2	84.2	1,920.3	4.4	60.0
Jun-Aug 2004	1,893.6	93.9	1,987.5	4.7	61.8
Sep-Nov 2004	1,894.1	85.6	1,979.7	4.3	61.0
Dec-Feb 2005	1,908.3	82.1	1,990.5	4.1	61.0

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 7b Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS3 regions<sup>1</sup> and ILO Economic Status**

Region (NUTS3)		In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
		'000	'000	'000	%	%
<b>Border</b>	Dec-Feb 2003	178.1	11.8	189.9	6.2	55.7
	Sep-Nov 2003	185.9	11.7	197.6	5.9	57.2
	Dec-Feb 2004	190.1	10.8	201.0	5.4	57.6
	Mar-May 2004	189.7	10.5	200.2	5.2	57.2
	Jun-Aug 2004	195.3	12.2	207.6	5.9	58.9
	Sep-Nov 2004	196.6	11.1	207.7	5.4	58.5
	Dec-Feb 2005	196.6	9.9	206.5	4.8	58.0
<b>Midland</b>	Dec-Feb 2003	98.6	4.6	103.2	4.4	58.3
	Sep-Nov 2003	102.0	4.3	106.3	4.0	58.9
	Dec-Feb 2004	104.6	4.6	109.2	4.2	59.7
	Mar-May 2004	102.9	5.0	107.9	4.6	59.2
	Jun-Aug 2004	108.3	5.7	114.0	5.0	61.9
	Sep-Nov 2004	107.4	4.7	112.1	4.2	60.2
	Dec-Feb 2005	109.9	3.9	113.8	3.5	60.6
<b>West</b>	Dec-Feb 2003	171.1	8.7	179.8	4.8	58.8
	Sep-Nov 2003	177.9	7.9	185.7	4.2	59.4
	Dec-Feb 2004	179.1	6.8	185.9	3.7	59.5
	Mar-May 2004	176.2	6.8	183.0	3.7	58.4
	Jun-Aug 2004	186.1	7.3	193.4	3.8	61.3
	Sep-Nov 2004	186.8	7.5	194.3	3.9	60.6
	Dec-Feb 2005	183.5	8.3	191.8	4.3	59.7
<b>Dublin</b>	Dec-Feb 2003	548.4	24.6	573.0	4.3	62.4
	Sep-Nov 2003	554.1	24.8	578.8	4.3	62.7
	Dec-Feb 2004	548.7	25.1	573.8	4.4	62.0
	Mar-May 2004	550.2	24.7	574.9	4.3	62.0
	Jun-Aug 2004	560.2	24.7	585.0	4.2	63.0
	Sep-Nov 2004	564.0	24.4	588.4	4.1	62.9
	Dec-Feb 2005	567.3	23.7	591.1	4.0	62.9
<b>Mid-East</b>	Dec-Feb 2003	199.8	6.4	206.3	3.1	63.3
	Sep-Nov 2003	202.8	7.0	209.8	3.3	63.3
	Dec-Feb 2004	203.5	6.6	210.1	3.1	62.9
	Mar-May 2004	204.2	6.7	210.9	3.2	62.8
	Jun-Aug 2004	210.9	8.2	219.0	3.7	64.6
	Sep-Nov 2004	212.0	6.2	218.2	2.9	63.7
	Dec-Feb 2005	216.2	6.0	222.2	2.7	64.3
<b>Mid-West</b>	Dec-Feb 2003	149.8	6.1	156.0	3.9	58.0
	Sep-Nov 2003	153.6	8.8	162.5	5.4	59.7
	Dec-Feb 2004	155.4	7.6	163.1	4.7	59.9
	Mar-May 2004	156.7	8.3	165.0	5.0	60.5
	Jun-Aug 2004	160.0	9.7	169.7	5.7	62.0
	Sep-Nov 2004	159.4	8.5	167.9	5.1	60.9
	Dec-Feb 2005	161.0	7.9	168.9	4.7	61.2
<b>South-East</b>	Dec-Feb 2003	186.3	11.6	197.9	5.9	58.9
	Sep-Nov 2003	191.1	10.4	201.5	5.2	59.1
	Dec-Feb 2004	191.0	10.8	201.8	5.3	58.8
	Mar-May 2004	192.2	10.5	202.6	5.2	58.9
	Jun-Aug 2004	195.9	13.0	208.9	6.2	60.2
	Sep-Nov 2004	195.2	11.6	206.8	5.6	59.1
	Dec-Feb 2005	198.9	11.3	210.2	5.4	59.5
<b>South-West</b>	Dec-Feb 2003	251.3	11.3	262.6	4.3	56.4
	Sep-Nov 2003	261.4	11.0	272.4	4.0	57.6
	Dec-Feb 2004	263.5	11.2	274.7	4.1	58.0
	Mar-May 2004	264.1	11.6	275.7	4.2	58.0
	Jun-Aug 2004	276.8	13.0	289.8	4.5	60.7
	Sep-Nov 2004	272.8	11.4	284.2	4.0	59.1
	Dec-Feb 2005	274.9	11.0	285.9	3.8	59.1
<b>State</b>	Dec-Feb 2003	1,783.6	85.2	1,868.7	4.6	59.5
	Sep-Nov 2003	1,828.9	85.9	1,914.8	4.5	60.2
	Dec-Feb 2004	1,835.9	83.6	1,919.5	4.4	60.1
	Mar-May 2004	1,836.2	84.2	1,920.3	4.4	60.0
	Jun-Aug 2004	1,893.6	93.9	1,987.5	4.7	61.8
	Sep-Nov 2004	1,894.1	85.6	1,979.7	4.3	61.0
	Dec-Feb 2005	1,908.3	82.1	1,990.5	4.1	61.0

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 8 Labour force participation rates (ILO) classified by sex, age group and marital status, December-February 2005**

%

Marital status	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
<b>Males</b>									
Single	28.0	76.6	91.3	87.9	76.6	57.6	45.1	18.7	68.6
Married	*	81.0	94.7	95.4	92.2	79.2	61.2	13.7	76.3
Separated or divorced	*	*	92.2	85.9	77.4	60.9	48.7	16.9	68.8
Widowed	*	*	84.3	90.6	79.6	65.5	47.6	5.8	23.3
<b>Total males</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>76.7</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>71.4</b>
<b>Females</b>									
Single	22.3	69.3	82.5	75.7	74.1	61.1	35.5	4.3	59.6
Married	*	51.9	68.9	63.9	59.8	43.2	24.4	3.8	50.7
Separated or divorced	*	*	58.7	69.0	67.8	52.9	35.2	6.8	59.5
Widowed	*	*	*	61.0	68.5	42.3	23.2	2.3	10.6
<b>Total females</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>50.9</b>
<b>All persons</b>									
Single	25.2	73.0	87.3	82.6	75.6	58.9	41.1	11.9	64.4
Married	57.6	59.9	80.1	79.6	76.3	61.5	43.7	9.5	63.6
Separated or divorced	*	*	68.3	73.9	71.3	56.1	40.9	11.8	62.8
Widowed	*	*	62.5	69.4	71.3	49.6	29.5	3.0	13.2
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>61.0</b>

\* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

**Table 9 Labour force participation rates (ILO) classified by sex and age group**

%

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
<b>Males</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	30.4	75.9	92.1	92.8	87.1	74.8	55.2	14.0	70.6
Sep-Nov 2003	30.3	77.8	92.6	92.6	87.9	75.0	55.4	14.2	71.1
Dec-Feb 2004	28.4	76.2	92.5	93.1	88.7	75.7	56.4	14.4	71.1
Mar-May 2004	27.0	76.1	92.5	93.1	89.1	75.5	54.9	13.7	70.9
Jun-Aug 2004	37.4	83.7	92.5	93.3	89.2	74.9	55.2	13.9	72.8
Sep-Nov 2004	29.1	77.7	92.6	93.5	89.1	74.8	56.9	13.6	71.5
Dec-Feb 2005	28.0	76.7	92.3	93.4	89.0	75.0	57.8	13.6	71.4
<b>Females</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	23.5	65.3	75.1	66.2	57.1	40.6	23.2	3.2	48.8
Sep-Nov 2003	24.5	68.5	76.3	65.4	58.2	42.4	23.2	2.8	49.6
Dec-Feb 2004	21.7	67.7	76.0	65.7	59.1	42.0	23.8	2.8	49.5
Mar-May 2004	20.0	66.0	75.6	65.9	60.2	42.1	24.8	3.1	49.4
Jun-Aug 2004	30.7	73.9	75.6	65.0	60.8	42.6	22.0	3.0	51.0
Sep-Nov 2004	24.0	71.5	76.3	65.7	61.4	44.4	23.8	3.1	50.8
Dec-Feb 2005	22.4	68.6	76.8	66.3	62.4	45.3	25.9	3.2	50.9
<b>All persons</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	27.0	70.6	83.6	79.4	72.2	57.9	39.3	7.9	59.5
Sep-Nov 2003	27.4	73.2	84.5	78.9	73.1	59.0	39.4	7.7	60.2
Dec-Feb 2004	25.1	72.0	84.2	79.4	73.9	59.1	40.2	7.9	60.1
Mar-May 2004	23.6	71.1	84.1	79.5	74.7	59.0	40.0	7.7	60.0
Jun-Aug 2004	34.2	78.8	84.0	79.1	75.1	58.9	38.7	7.8	61.8
Sep-Nov 2004	26.6	74.6	84.4	79.6	75.3	59.7	40.5	7.7	61.0
Dec-Feb 2005	25.3	72.6	84.6	79.8	75.7	60.3	41.9	7.8	61.0

**Table 10 Number of persons in the labour force (ILO) classified by sex and age group**

'000

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
<b>Males</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	48.0	128.4	290.9	262.9	212.6	77.5	44.0	27.0	1,091.4
Sep-Nov 2003	47.1	132.4	298.3	266.6	216.8	80.2	45.5	27.7	1,114.5
Dec-Feb 2004	43.9	129.8	299.3	269.1	219.7	81.6	46.7	28.3	1,118.4
Mar-May 2004	41.6	129.5	300.9	271.3	221.3	82.1	45.9	27.0	1,119.6
Jun-Aug 2004	57.5	142.7	303.9	272.9	222.9	81.9	46.6	27.6	1,156.0
Sep-Nov 2004	44.6	134.3	308.5	275.7	223.9	82.5	48.4	27.2	1,145.2
Dec-Feb 2005	42.6	132.0	312.5	277.2	224.9	83.5	49.6	27.5	1,149.8
<b>Females</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	35.5	109.7	236.8	189.5	138.5	40.9	18.3	8.1	777.3
Sep-Nov 2003	36.4	116.5	245.3	189.6	142.7	44.1	18.8	7.0	800.3
Dec-Feb 2004	32.1	115.4	245.9	191.1	145.8	44.1	19.5	7.2	801.1
Mar-May 2004	29.4	111.2	245.8	192.5	149.1	44.6	20.5	7.8	800.8
Jun-Aug 2004	44.9	125.0	247.8	191.1	151.1	45.5	18.4	7.7	831.5
Sep-Nov 2004	35.1	122.7	253.3	194.2	153.4	47.9	20.1	7.9	834.5
Dec-Feb 2005	32.5	117.2	257.3	197.1	156.8	49.5	22.0	8.4	840.7
<b>All persons</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	83.5	238.1	527.7	452.4	351.1	118.4	62.4	35.0	1,868.7
Sep-Nov 2003	83.5	248.9	543.6	456.2	359.5	124.3	64.3	34.7	1,914.8
Dec-Feb 2004	76.0	245.2	545.2	460.2	365.5	125.6	66.2	35.4	1,919.5
Mar-May 2004	71.0	240.8	546.7	463.8	370.3	126.6	66.4	34.7	1,920.3
Jun-Aug 2004	102.4	267.7	551.7	464.0	374.0	127.4	64.9	35.3	1,987.5
Sep-Nov 2004	79.7	257.0	561.8	469.9	377.3	130.3	68.5	35.1	1,979.7
Dec-Feb 2005	75.2	249.1	569.9	474.2	381.6	133.0	71.7	35.8	1,990.5

**Table 11 Number of persons in employment (ILO) classified by sex and age group**

'000

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
<b>Males</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	41.8	118.0	275.5	252.2	204.6	75.0	43.3	26.9	1,037.3
Sep-Nov 2003	41.0	121.5	284.0	256.2	208.7	77.9	44.3	27.6	1,061.1
Dec-Feb 2004	39.1	120.3	284.0	258.0	211.6	79.3	45.5	28.0	1,065.8
Mar-May 2004	36.6	119.8	285.1	260.4	212.2	79.5	44.7	26.8	1,065.2
Jun-Aug 2004	49.5	130.7	288.6	263.2	213.9	79.7	45.3	27.3	1,098.3
Sep-Nov 2004	38.3	124.0	294.7	265.9	215.2	80.0	47.4	27.1	1,092.4
Dec-Feb 2005	37.9	122.2	298.0	267.2	216.5	80.6	48.4	27.3	1,098.3
<b>Females</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	31.7	103.3	227.8	183.5	134.0	39.8	18.1	8.0	746.3
Sep-Nov 2003	32.4	108.5	235.8	184.0	138.6	43.1	18.4	6.9	767.8
Dec-Feb 2004	28.9	107.7	237.6	184.6	142.0	43.1	19.1	7.1	770.1
Mar-May 2004	25.8	104.5	237.2	186.3	145.5	43.9	20.2	7.6	771.0
Jun-Aug 2004	38.2	114.3	240.1	185.5	147.3	44.2	18.1	7.7	795.3
Sep-Nov 2004	30.8	114.6	244.7	187.9	149.2	46.7	19.9	7.9	801.7
Dec-Feb 2005	29.6	110.2	248.7	190.8	153.0	47.8	21.7	8.3	810.1
<b>All persons</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	73.5	221.4	503.3	435.7	338.6	114.8	61.4	34.9	1,783.6
Sep-Nov 2003	73.4	230.0	519.8	440.2	347.4	120.9	62.8	34.5	1,828.9
Dec-Feb 2004	68.1	228.0	521.6	442.6	353.6	122.4	64.5	35.1	1,835.9
Mar-May 2004	62.4	224.2	522.3	446.7	357.7	123.5	64.9	34.5	1,836.2
Jun-Aug 2004	87.7	245.0	528.8	448.6	361.2	123.9	63.4	35.0	1,893.6
Sep-Nov 2004	69.1	238.7	539.4	453.8	364.4	126.6	67.2	34.9	1,894.1
Dec-Feb 2005	67.5	232.4	546.7	458.1	369.6	128.3	70.1	35.6	1,908.3

**Table 12 Employment rates<sup>1</sup> (ILO) for persons aged 15-64, classified by sex and age group**

%

	Age group							Total 15-64
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
<b>Males</b>								
Dec-Feb 2003	26.4	69.8	87.2	89.0	83.8	72.4	54.2	74.6
Sep-Nov 2003	26.3	71.5	88.2	89.0	84.6	72.9	54.0	75.4
Dec-Feb 2004	25.3	70.6	87.7	89.2	85.4	73.6	54.9	75.4
Mar-May 2004	23.8	70.3	87.6	89.4	85.4	73.2	53.5	75.2
Jun-Aug 2004	32.3	76.7	87.8	89.9	85.6	72.9	53.7	77.1
Sep-Nov 2004	24.9	71.7	88.5	90.2	85.6	72.5	55.7	76.0
Dec-Feb 2005	24.9	71.0	88.0	90.0	85.7	72.4	56.4	76.0
<b>Females</b>								
Dec-Feb 2003	21.0	61.5	72.3	64.1	55.3	39.5	22.9	55.0
Sep-Nov 2003	21.8	63.8	73.3	63.5	56.5	41.4	22.7	55.9
Dec-Feb 2004	19.6	63.2	73.4	63.5	57.5	41.1	23.3	55.9
Mar-May 2004	17.6	62.0	73.0	63.7	58.8	41.5	24.4	55.8
Jun-Aug 2004	26.1	67.6	73.2	63.1	59.3	41.4	21.7	57.2
Sep-Nov 2004	21.1	66.8	73.7	63.6	59.7	43.3	23.6	57.2
Dec-Feb 2005	20.3	64.5	74.2	64.2	60.9	43.8	25.6	57.5
<b>All persons</b>								
Dec-Feb 2003	23.8	65.7	79.8	76.5	69.6	56.2	38.6	64.8
Sep-Nov 2003	24.1	67.6	80.8	76.2	70.6	57.4	38.5	65.7
Dec-Feb 2004	22.5	66.9	80.6	76.3	71.5	57.6	39.2	65.7
Mar-May 2004	20.7	66.2	80.3	76.5	72.1	57.6	39.1	65.5
Jun-Aug 2004	29.3	72.1	80.5	76.5	72.5	57.3	37.8	67.2
Sep-Nov 2004	23.1	69.3	81.1	76.9	72.7	58.0	39.7	66.7
Dec-Feb 2005	22.7	67.8	81.2	77.1	73.3	58.2	41.0	66.8

<sup>1</sup> The employment rate represents the percentage of the population (or sub-population) that is in employment. The unemployment rate, on the other hand, represents the percentage of the labour force that are unemployed in any given population.

**Table 13 Number of persons unemployed (ILO) classified by sex and age group**

'000

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
<b>Males</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	6.2	10.4	15.4	10.8	8.1	2.5	0.8	*	54.2
Sep-Nov 2003	6.1	10.8	14.3	10.4	8.1	2.3	1.1	*	53.3
Dec-Feb 2004	4.8	9.5	15.4	11.1	8.1	2.3	1.2	0.3	52.6
Mar-May 2004	5.0	9.8	15.8	10.8	9.1	2.5	1.2	*	54.4
Jun-Aug 2004	7.9	12.0	15.3	9.8	9.0	2.2	1.3	0.3	57.7
Sep-Nov 2004	6.4	10.3	13.8	9.9	8.7	2.5	1.1	*	52.8
Dec-Feb 2005	4.7	9.7	14.5	9.9	8.3	2.9	1.2	*	51.5
<b>Females</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	3.8	6.4	9.0	6.0	4.4	1.1	*	*	31.0
Sep-Nov 2003	4.0	8.1	9.5	5.5	4.0	1.0	0.4	*	32.6
Dec-Feb 2004	3.2	7.7	8.2	6.6	3.8	1.0	0.5	*	31.0
Mar-May 2004	3.6	6.8	8.5	6.2	3.5	0.6	0.3	*	29.8
Jun-Aug 2004	6.8	10.7	7.6	5.6	3.9	1.3	*	*	36.2
Sep-Nov 2004	4.3	8.1	8.6	6.3	4.2	1.2	*	*	32.8
Dec-Feb 2005	3.0	7.0	8.6	6.2	3.7	1.7	0.3	*	30.6
<b>All persons</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	10.0	16.7	24.4	16.7	12.5	3.6	1.0	*	85.2
Sep-Nov 2003	10.1	18.9	23.8	15.9	12.1	3.3	1.5	*	85.9
Dec-Feb 2004	8.0	17.2	23.6	17.6	11.9	3.2	1.7	0.3	83.6
Mar-May 2004	8.6	16.5	24.4	17.1	12.6	3.2	1.5	0.3	84.2
Jun-Aug 2004	14.7	22.7	22.9	15.4	12.8	3.5	1.6	0.3	93.9
Sep-Nov 2004	10.6	18.4	22.4	16.2	12.9	3.7	1.3	*	85.6
Dec-Feb 2005	7.7	16.7	23.2	16.2	12.1	4.6	1.5	*	82.1

\* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.



**Table 14 Unemployment rates (ILO) classified by sex and age group**

%

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
<b>Males</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	13.0	8.1	5.3	4.1	3.8	3.2	1.8	*	5.0
Sep-Nov 2003	13.0	8.2	4.8	3.9	3.7	2.9	2.5	*	4.8
Dec-Feb 2004	10.9	7.3	5.1	4.1	3.7	2.8	2.6	1.0	4.7
Mar-May 2004	12.1	7.5	5.3	4.0	4.1	3.1	2.5	*	4.9
Jun-Aug 2004	13.8	8.4	5.0	3.6	4.0	2.7	2.8	1.0	5.0
Sep-Nov 2004	14.3	7.7	4.5	3.6	3.9	3.0	2.2	0.4	4.6
Dec-Feb 2005	11.1	7.4	4.6	3.6	3.7	3.5	2.5	0.4	4.5
<b>Females</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	10.6	5.8	3.8	3.2	3.2	2.8	*	*	4.0
Sep-Nov 2003	11.0	6.9	3.9	2.9	2.8	2.3	2.1	*	4.1
Dec-Feb 2004	9.9	6.7	3.4	3.4	2.6	2.2	2.3	0.5	3.9
Mar-May 2004	12.2	6.1	3.5	3.2	2.4	1.4	1.7	*	3.7
Jun-Aug 2004	15.1	8.6	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.8	1.3	*	4.3
Sep-Nov 2004	12.2	6.6	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.5	1.1	*	3.9
Dec-Feb 2005	9.1	6.0	3.4	3.2	2.4	3.4	1.4	0.6	3.6
<b>All persons</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	12.0	7.0	4.6	3.7	3.6	3.0	1.6	*	4.6
Sep-Nov 2003	12.2	7.6	4.4	3.5	3.4	2.7	2.4	*	4.5
Dec-Feb 2004	10.5	7.0	4.3	3.8	3.3	2.6	2.5	0.9	4.4
Mar-May 2004	12.1	6.9	4.5	3.7	3.4	2.5	2.3	0.8	4.4
Jun-Aug 2004	14.4	8.5	4.2	3.3	3.4	2.7	2.4	0.8	4.7
Sep-Nov 2004	13.4	7.1	4.0	3.4	3.4	2.8	1.9	0.3	4.3
Dec-Feb 2005	10.2	6.7	4.1	3.4	3.2	3.5	2.2	0.5	4.1

**Table 15 Labour force situation of married females classified by age group**

Married Females	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
<b>Total married women ('000)</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	0.5	6.0	127.7	211.9	186.8	76.9	56.4	93.9	760.2
Sep-Nov 2003	0.3	5.0	132.2	216.4	191.9	79.0	59.0	98.6	782.4
Dec-Feb 2004	0.3	4.6	129.6	216.9	191.8	80.9	58.5	99.0	781.7
Mar-May 2004	0.6	4.8	128.8	219.0	192.3	81.7	58.5	99.2	784.9
Jun-Aug 2004	0.6	5.3	128.0	217.6	190.5	82.7	58.8	100.4	783.8
Sep-Nov 2004	0.5	5.4	129.3	218.2	190.1	83.2	59.1	99.9	785.8
Dec-Feb 2005	0.3	5.5	128.5	220.2	191.3	85.2	59.9	102.3	793.3
<b>of which In labour force ('000)</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	*	2.9	81.9	133.6	101.8	29.4	12.1	3.3	365.1
Sep-Nov 2003	*	2.2	87.0	135.0	107.7	32.2	12.7	2.9	379.8
Dec-Feb 2004	*	2.0	85.1	135.5	109.7	32.6	12.9	3.4	381.1
Mar-May 2004	*	2.3	84.4	138.3	112.3	33.4	13.0	3.7	387.5
Jun-Aug 2004	*	2.4	83.0	136.5	112.2	33.5	12.2	3.8	383.6
Sep-Nov 2004	0.3	2.9	87.0	138.0	111.4	35.3	12.9	3.7	391.3
Dec-Feb 2005	*	2.8	88.6	140.8	114.5	36.8	14.7	3.9	402.3
<b>of which In employment ('000)</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	*	2.7	79.7	129.8	98.8	28.7	12.0	3.2	355.0
Sep-Nov 2003	*	1.9	84.7	131.7	104.9	31.6	12.6	2.9	370.3
Dec-Feb 2004	*	1.8	83.2	131.9	107.2	31.9	12.8	3.4	372.2
Mar-May 2004	*	2.0	82.6	134.9	110.0	32.9	12.9	3.7	378.8
Jun-Aug 2004	*	2.1	81.3	132.9	110.1	32.7	12.1	3.8	375.0
Sep-Nov 2004	0.3	2.6	85.3	134.1	108.8	34.7	12.7	3.7	382.1
Dec-Feb 2005	*	2.6	86.2	136.8	112.0	36.0	14.5	3.9	392.2
<b>Participation rates (%)</b>									
Dec-Feb 2003	*	48.4	64.1	63.1	54.5	38.2	21.5	3.5	48.0
Sep-Nov 2003	*	44.4	65.8	62.4	56.1	40.7	21.6	3.0	48.5
Dec-Feb 2004	*	42.2	65.6	62.4	57.2	40.3	22.1	3.4	48.8
Mar-May 2004	*	47.5	65.5	63.1	58.4	40.8	22.2	3.8	49.4
Jun-Aug 2004	*	44.5	64.8	62.7	58.9	40.5	20.7	3.8	48.9
Sep-Nov 2004	*	53.0	67.3	63.2	58.6	42.4	21.8	3.7	49.8
Dec-Feb 2005	*	51.9	69.0	63.9	59.8	43.3	24.5	3.8	50.7

\* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

**Table 16 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by labour force, employment, unemployment and long-term unemployment (ILO)**

Period	Labour force	In employment	Unemployed	<i>of which</i> Long-term unemployed	Unemployment rate	Long-term unemployment rate
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
April 1994	1,431.6	1,220.6	211.0	128.2	14.7	9.0
April 1995	1,459.2	1,281.7	177.4	103.3	12.2	7.1
April 1996	1,507.5	1,328.5	179.0	103.3	11.9	6.9
April 1997	1,539.0	1,379.9	159.0	86.3	10.3	5.6
Sep-Nov 1997	1,638.9	1,467.7	171.2	90.6	10.4	5.5
Dec-Feb 1998	1,620.1	1,481.7	138.4	72.6	8.5	4.5
Mar-May 1998	1,620.4	1,494.0	126.4	63.6	7.8	3.9
Jun-Aug 1998	1,689.1	1,560.2	128.9	62.0	7.6	3.7
Sep-Nov 1998	1,653.3	1,547.1	106.2	51.9	6.4	3.1
Dec-Feb 1999	1,650.5	1,555.6	94.9	43.7	5.7	2.6
Mar-May 1999	1,685.9	1,589.1	96.9	41.5	5.7	2.5
Jun-Aug 1999	1,766.1	1,665.8	100.4	38.0	5.7	2.2
Sep-Nov 1999	1,735.7	1,647.4	88.3	36.4	5.1	2.1
Dec-Feb 2000	1,729.9	1,648.7	81.2	29.8	4.7	1.7
Mar-May 2000	1,745.9	1,671.4	74.5	27.7	4.3	1.6
Jun-Aug 2000	1,813.3	1,736.1	77.1	25.9	4.3	1.4
Sep-Nov 2000	1,781.0	1,712.6	68.4	24.3	3.8	1.4
Dec-Feb 2001	1,776.2	1,710.9	65.3	21.7	3.7	1.2
Mar-May 2001	1,787.0	1,721.9	65.1	20.8	3.6	1.2
Jun-Aug 2001	1,867.4	1,788.9	78.5	22.1	4.2	1.2
Sep-Nov 2001	1,831.6	1,759.9	71.8	21.4	3.9	1.2
Dec-Feb 2002	1,832.7	1,753.5	79.2	23.2	4.3	1.3
Mar-May 2002	1,840.9	1,763.9	77.0	21.7	4.2	1.2
Jun-Aug 2002	1,894.6	1,808.4	86.2	22.0	4.6	1.2
Sep-Nov 2002	1,866.3	1,782.3	84.1	24.9	4.5	1.3
Dec-Feb 2003	1,868.7	1,783.6	85.2	26.7	4.6	1.4
Mar-May 2003	1,875.5	1,793.4	82.1	27.2	4.4	1.5
Jun-Aug 2003	1,935.3	1,836.4	98.8	27.0	5.1	1.4
Sep-Nov 2003	1,914.8	1,828.9	85.9	26.2	4.5	1.4
Dec-Feb 2004	1,919.5	1,835.9	83.6	30.5	4.4	1.6
Mar-May 2004	1,920.3	1,836.2	84.2	26.3	4.4	1.4
Jun-Aug 2004	1,987.5	1,893.6	93.9	28.0	4.7	1.4
Sep-Nov 2004	1,979.7	1,894.1	85.6	28.9	4.3	1.5
Dec-Feb 2005	1,990.5	1,908.3	82.1	27.8	4.1	1.4

**Table 17 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex and duration of unemployment (ILO)**

'000

Duration of unemployment(ILO)	Dec- Feb 03	Sep- Nov 03	Dec- Feb 04	Mar- May 04	Jun- Aug 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05
<b>Males</b>							
Less than 1 year	34.2	33.5	29.7	33.9	36.6	31.3	30.3
1 year and over	19.6	19.6	22.8	20.2	20.7	21.3	21.0
Not stated	0.4	*	*	0.3	0.4	*	*
<b>Total males</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>51.5</b>
<b>Females</b>							
Less than 1 year	23.9	25.9	23.2	23.5	28.8	25.2	23.8
1 year and over	7.1	6.6	7.7	6.2	7.3	7.5	6.7
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Total females</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>30.6</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
Less than 1 year	58.1	59.4	52.9	57.4	65.4	56.5	54.1
1 year and over	26.7	26.2	30.5	26.3	28.0	28.9	27.8
Not stated	0.4	*	*	0.4	0.4	*	0.3
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>85.9</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>82.1</b>

\* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

**Table 18 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex, age group and duration of unemployment (ILO)**

'000

	QNHS Dec-Feb 2004				QNHS Dec-Feb 2005				Total
	Age group			Total	Age group			Total	
	15-24	25-44	45 or over		15-24	25-44	45 or over		
<b>Males</b>									
Less than 1 year	9.8	14.0	5.8	29.7	9.8	14.0	6.6	30.3	
1 year and over	4.5	12.3	6.0	22.8	4.6	10.3	6.0	21.0	
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
<b>Total males</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>51.5</b>	
<b>Females</b>									
Less than 1 year	8.7	10.9	3.6	23.2	8.0	11.5	4.3	23.8	
1 year and over	2.2	3.9	1.7	7.7	1.8	3.4	1.5	6.7	
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
<b>Total females</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>30.6</b>	
<b>All persons</b>									
Less than 1 year	18.5	25.0	9.4	52.9	17.8	25.5	10.9	54.1	
1 year and over	6.6	16.2	7.7	30.5	6.5	13.8	7.5	27.8	
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>82.1</b>	

\* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

**Table 19 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by detailed ILO Economic Status**

'000

ILO Economic Status	Dec- Feb 03	Mar- May 03	Jun- Aug 03	Sep- Nov 03	Dec- Feb 04	Mar- May 04	Jun- Aug 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>1,868.7</b>	<b>1,875.5</b>	<b>1,935.3</b>	<b>1,914.8</b>	<b>1,919.5</b>	<b>1,920.3</b>	<b>1,987.5</b>	<b>1,979.7</b>	<b>1,990.5</b>
In employment:	1,783.6	1,793.4	1,836.4	1,828.9	1,835.9	1,836.2	1,893.6	1,894.1	1,908.3
full-time	1,482.4	1,488.2	1,525.7	1,524.1	1,527.1	1,525.0	1,576.2	1,577.6	1,581.0
part-time:	301.1	305.2	310.7	304.8	308.8	311.1	317.4	316.6	327.4
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed</i>	297.7	301.7	306.4	300.9	305.0	307.4	313.4	313.6	324.3
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	3.4	3.5	4.3	3.9	3.8	3.7	4.0	2.9	3.0
Unemployed:	85.2	82.1	98.8	85.9	83.6	84.2	93.9	85.6	82.1
seeking full-time work	71.6	69.0	82.9	70.9	70.8	71.7	80.1	72.2	69.1
seeking part-time work	13.5	13.1	15.9	15.0	12.8	12.4	13.8	13.4	13.0
<b>Not in labour force</b>	<b>1,270.1</b>	<b>1,269.6</b>	<b>1,223.9</b>	<b>1,265.1</b>	<b>1,272.5</b>	<b>1,280.3</b>	<b>1,230.9</b>	<b>1,266.0</b>	<b>1,272.5</b>
Marginally attached to the labour force:	12.7	12.1	14.6	10.9	12.2	10.0	13.4	11.3	12.1
Discouraged workers	9.4	9.1	11.2	8.3	9.4	8.1	10.8	8.4	9.3
Passive jobseekers	3.3	3.1	3.4	2.7	2.8	1.9	2.6	2.9	2.8
Others:	<b>1,257.4</b>	<b>1,257.5</b>	<b>1,209.3</b>	<b>1,254.2</b>	<b>1,260.3</b>	<b>1,270.3</b>	<b>1,217.5</b>	<b>1,254.7</b>	<b>1,260.4</b>
Persons not in education, who want work <sup>1</sup>	58.9	61.9	52.1	45.4	54.9	53.3	56.5	56.1	56.5
Persons in education, who want work <sup>1</sup>	47.0	52.1	30.8	31.6	29.7	35.3	25.0	27.8	29.4
All other persons	1,151.5	1,143.5	1,126.4	1,177.2	1,175.8	1,181.7	1,135.9	1,170.8	1,174.4
<b>Total persons aged 15 or over</b>	<b>3,138.9</b>	<b>3,145.1</b>	<b>3,159.2</b>	<b>3,179.9</b>	<b>3,192.0</b>	<b>3,200.6</b>	<b>3,218.4</b>	<b>3,245.7</b>	<b>3,262.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Persons who want work are those who are looking for work but are not available and those who say they want a job but are not looking for work.

**Table 20 Indicators of potential labour supply**

Quarter	S1	S2	S3
Dec-Feb 2000	5.4	8.8	9.0
Mar-May 2000	4.8	8.0	8.2
Jun-Aug 2000	4.9	8.1	8.3
Sep-Nov 2000	4.3	7.8	8.0
Dec-Feb 2001	4.2	7.4	7.5
Mar-May 2001	4.1	7.3	7.4
Jun-Aug 2001	4.7	7.8	8.0
Sep-Nov 2001	4.4	7.5	7.6
Dec-Feb 2002	4.8	7.8	8.0
Mar-May 2002	4.6	7.6	7.8
Jun-Aug 2002	5.0	7.9	8.0
Sep-Nov 2002	5.0	7.9	8.0
Dec-Feb 2003	5.0	8.1	8.3
Mar-May 2003	4.8	8.0	8.2
Jun-Aug 2003	5.7	8.3	8.5
Sep-Nov 2003	4.9	7.2	7.4
Dec-Feb 2004	4.8	7.6	7.8
Mar-May 2004	4.8	7.4	7.6
Jun-Aug 2004	5.2	8.0	8.2
Sep-Nov 2004	4.7	7.5	7.6
Dec-Feb 2005	4.6	7.3	7.5

%

NOTE: Definitions of indicators by reference to Table 19:

S1: Unemployed plus discouraged workers as a percentage of the Labour Force plus discouraged workers.

S2: Unemployed plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work as a percentage of the Labour Force plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work.

S3: Unemployed plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work plus underemployed part-time workers as a percentage of the Labour Force plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work.

**Table 21 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by Principal Economic Status<sup>1</sup>**

'000

Principal Economic Status	Dec-Feb 03	Sep-Nov 03	Dec-Feb 04	Mar-May 04	Jun-Aug 04	Sep-Nov 04	Dec-Feb 05
<b>Males</b>							
At work	1,003.8	1,032.1	1,036.7	1,038.5	1,052.1	1,066.9	1,068.5
Unemployed	83.1	82.2	79.3	81.1	80.5	78.0	78.9
Student	181.2	172.6	177.4	179.0	170.4	171.2	177.7
Home duties	5.8	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.6	5.2	5.4
Retired	201.8	204.7	205.7	206.9	208.3	208.6	210.1
Others	70.7	70.3	69.0	68.7	71.5	71.7	70.7
<b>Total males</b>	<b>1,546.4</b>	<b>1,566.6</b>	<b>1,572.4</b>	<b>1,578.7</b>	<b>1,587.4</b>	<b>1,601.6</b>	<b>1,611.3</b>
<b>Females</b>							
At work	705.4	725.3	730.1	731.9	745.5	761.1	767.2
Unemployed	34.0	35.8	35.0	31.6	37.2	34.0	31.2
Student	197.4	191.7	196.2	198.4	180.0	186.5	196.4
Home duties	557.8	558.0	553.4	551.9	560.0	553.3	546.5
Retired	65.2	67.6	67.3	70.3	68.8	70.5	71.4
Others	32.5	35.1	37.6	37.9	39.4	38.8	39.1
<b>Total females</b>	<b>1,592.5</b>	<b>1,613.4</b>	<b>1,619.6</b>	<b>1,621.9</b>	<b>1,631.0</b>	<b>1,644.1</b>	<b>1,651.7</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
At work	1,709.3	1,757.4	1,766.8	1,770.4	1,797.6	1,828.0	1,835.7
Unemployed	117.2	118.0	114.3	112.6	117.7	112.0	110.1
Student	378.6	364.3	373.6	377.4	350.4	357.7	374.1
Home duties	563.5	562.7	557.8	556.4	564.6	558.5	551.9
Retired	267.0	272.2	273.0	277.2	277.1	279.1	281.5
Others	103.2	105.4	106.5	106.6	110.9	110.5	109.7
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>3,138.9</b>	<b>3,179.9</b>	<b>3,192.0</b>	<b>3,200.6</b>	<b>3,218.4</b>	<b>3,245.7</b>	<b>3,262.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Classification based on respondent's own subjective assessment, see Background Notes.

**Table 22 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by ILO Economic Status and by Principal Economic Status, December-February 2005**

'000

ILO Economic Status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
<b>Males</b>							
In employment:	1,063.5	2.2	26.6	0.3	3.4	2.3	1,098.3
full-time	1,022.8	1.5	1.7	*	0.8	1.5	1,028.5
part-time:	40.7	0.7	24.9	*	2.6	0.8	69.8
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed</i>	39.2	0.5	24.9	*	2.6	0.8	68.2
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	1.5	*	*	*	*	*	1.6
Unemployed:	1.2	46.6	1.3	*	0.4	1.8	51.5
seeking full-time work	1.2	45.4	0.4	*	*	1.5	48.9
seeking part-time work	*	1.2	0.9	*	0.3	0.3	2.6
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.8	4.8	*	*	*	0.4	7.3
Others	2.1	25.3	149.6	4.8	206.2	66.2	454.2
<b>Total males aged 15 or over</b>	<b>1,068.5</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>177.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>210.1</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>1,611.3</b>
<b>Females</b>							
In employment:	762.7	1.5	34.4	8.3	0.8	2.4	810.1
full-time	546.4	0.7	2.0	1.8	*	1.5	552.5
part-time:	216.3	0.7	32.4	6.6	0.7	0.9	257.6
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed</i>	215.1	0.7	32.3	6.5	0.7	0.9	256.1
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	1.2	*	*	*	*	*	1.4
Unemployed:	0.5	18.0	1.1	10.3	*	0.6	30.6
seeking full-time work	0.4	14.9	*	4.1	*	0.6	20.2
seeking part-time work	*	3.1	0.9	6.2	*	*	10.4
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.4	1.2	0.3	1.5	*	0.4	4.8
Others	2.5	10.6	160.6	526.5	70.4	35.7	806.2
<b>Total females aged 15 or over</b>	<b>767.2</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>196.4</b>	<b>546.5</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>1,651.7</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
In employment:	1,826.3	3.7	61.0	8.6	4.2	4.7	1,908.3
full-time	1,569.2	2.2	3.8	1.9	0.9	3.0	1,581.0
part-time:	257.0	1.4	57.2	6.7	3.3	1.6	327.4
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed</i>	254.4	1.2	57.2	6.6	3.3	1.6	324.3
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	2.7	*	*	*	*	*	3.0
Unemployed:	1.7	64.5	2.4	10.5	0.6	2.4	82.1
seeking full-time work	1.6	60.3	0.6	4.3	*	2.1	69.1
seeking part-time work	*	4.3	1.8	6.2	0.4	0.3	13.0
Marginally attached to the labour force	3.2	6.0	0.5	1.5	*	0.7	12.1
Others	4.6	35.9	310.2	531.3	276.5	101.9	1,260.4
<b>Total persons aged 15 or over</b>	<b>1,835.7</b>	<b>110.1</b>	<b>374.1</b>	<b>551.9</b>	<b>281.5</b>	<b>109.7</b>	<b>3,262.9</b>

\* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

**Table 23 Estimated adult<sup>1</sup> members of family units classified by composition of family unit, ILO Economic Status and sex, December-February 2005**

'000

Composition of family unit	In employment			Unemployed			Not economically active			Total <sup>2</sup>		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Husband and wife (or couple) without children:</b>												
Wife/female partner aged under 45	91.2	86.9	178.1	2.3	1.9	4.2	4.1	9.1	13.1	97.5	97.9	195.4
Wife/female partner aged 45 to 64	67.5	45.4	112.9	2.2	0.9	3.1	43.8	65.5	109.3	113.5	111.8	225.3
Wife/female partner aged 65 or over	8.0	2.6	10.6	*	*	*	70.2	74.2	144.4	78.3	76.8	155.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>166.7</b>	<b>134.9</b>	<b>301.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>118.0</b>	<b>148.8</b>	<b>266.8</b>	<b>289.3</b>	<b>286.5</b>	<b>575.8</b>
<b>Husband and wife (or couple) with children:</b>												
At least 1 child aged under 5 and no child aged 15 or over	160.8	103.2	264.1	5.7	2.9	8.6	9.5	68.5	78.0	176.0	174.6	350.6
At least 1 child aged under 5 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	9.1	3.8	13.0	0.7	0.5	1.2	1.7	7.0	8.6	11.5	11.3	22.8
All children aged 5 to 14	71.8	46.8	118.6	2.0	1.6	3.7	3.2	27.3	30.5	77.0	75.7	152.7
No child aged under 5, at least 1 child aged 5 to 14 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	114.3	73.8	188.0	3.5	2.9	6.4	9.1	47.1	56.3	126.9	123.8	250.7
All children aged 15 or over	139.3	88.3	227.5	3.4	1.7	5.1	53.0	101.4	154.5	195.7	191.4	387.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>495.2</b>	<b>315.9</b>	<b>811.1</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>251.3</b>	<b>327.8</b>	<b>587.1</b>	<b>576.8</b>	<b>1,163.9</b>
<b>Lone parent with children:</b>												
At least 1 child aged under 5 and no child aged 15 or over	0.6	16.9	17.5	*	1.6	1.8	*	25.1	25.3	1.0	43.6	44.6
At least 1 child aged under 5 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	*	1.4	1.4	*	*	*	*	1.9	2.0	*	3.4	3.5
All children aged 5 to 14	1.1	12.2	13.3	*	1.1	1.1	*	8.4	8.6	1.3	21.6	23.0
No child aged under 5, at least 1 child aged 5 to 14 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	2.2	16.0	18.1	*	1.2	1.4	0.6	8.6	9.3	3.0	25.8	28.7
All children aged 15 or over	7.3	24.0	31.3	*	1.2	1.5	8.3	44.0	52.2	15.8	69.2	85.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>81.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>97.4</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>163.6</b>	<b>184.9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>673.2</b>	<b>521.2</b>	<b>1,194.4</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>203.9</b>	<b>488.1</b>	<b>692.0</b>	<b>897.7</b>	<b>1,026.9</b>	<b>1,924.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of the table, an adult is either a lone parent or a member of a couple.

<sup>2</sup> See the discussion on the grossing effect in the background notes.

\* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.



**Table 24 Annual Labour Force Survey results classified by ILO Economic Status for persons aged 15 or over in EU member states**

Region	Q2/2003					Q2/2004				
	Labour force	In employment	Unemployed	Participation rate	Unemployment rate	Labour force	In employment	Unemployed	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	'000	'000	'000	%	%
EU-25	212,082	193,086	18,997	56.6	9.0	212,305	193,350	18,955	56.6	8.9
EU-15	178,344	164,197	14,147	56.8	7.9	178,592	164,462	14,131	56.8	7.9
Eurozone <sup>1</sup>	140,796	128,504	12,293	55.4	8.7	141,810	129,480	12,330	55.6	8.7
Belgium	4,392	4,055	337	51.4	7.7	4,473	4,144	329	52.0	7.4
Czech Republic	5,087	4,703	384	59.2	7.5	5,101	4,682	419	59.0	8.2
Denmark	2,859	2,704	154	65.5	5.4	2,893	2,742	151	65.9	5.2
Germany <sup>2</sup>	39,821	35,927	3,894	57.3	9.8	39,821	35,927	3,894	57.3	9.8
Estonia	660	589	71	58.7	10.8	661	595	66	58.8	10.0
Greece	4,728	4,287	442	52.5	9.3	4,823	4,330	493	53.3	10.2
Spain	18,751	16,666	2,085	54.1	11.1	19,143	17,050	2,093	54.9	10.9
France	26,360	24,140	2,220	55.9	8.4	26,515	24,215	2,300	55.9	8.7
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>1,876</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Italy	24,203	22,057	2,146	49.3	8.9	24,361	22,438	1,923	49.6	7.9
Cyprus	341	327	14	63.1	4.1	352	336	15	63.1	4.3
Latvia	1,122	1,004	119	57.3	10.6	1,133	1,021	112	57.7	9.9
Lithuania	1,690	1,473	218	60.2	12.9	1,621	1,437	184	57.4	11.4
Luxembourg <sup>2</sup>	195	188	7	54.8	3.6	195	188	7	54.8	3.6
Hungary	4,165	3,924	241	49.7	5.8	4,135	3,894	241	49.5	5.8
Malta	161	149	12	50.3	7.5	157	146	11	49.5	7.0
Netherlands	8,432	8,126	306	64.7	3.6	8,496	8,101	395	64.9	4.6
Austria	3,906	3,746	160	59.4	4.1	3,932	3,742	190	58.6	4.8
Poland	16,938	13,657	3,281	54.6	19.4	16,907	13,682	3,225	54.4	19.1
Portugal	5,451	5,118	333	62.1	6.1	5,472	5,125	347	61.9	6.3
Slovenia	959	896	62	56.5	6.5	1,006	946	60	59.0	6.0
Slovak Republic	2,615	2,167	448	60.1	17.1	2,640	2,149	491	60.1	18.6
Finland	2,681	2,401	281	62.8	10.5	2,659	2,384	275	62.1	10.3
Sweden	4,608	4,352	256	62.8	5.6	4,620	4,311	309	62.5	6.7
United Kingdom	30,081	28,637	1,444	62.5	4.8	29,269	27,929	1,341	61.7	4.6

Source: Eurostat.

Note: Trends in some member states may be affected by changes in methodology.

Note: Table contains revised data.

<sup>1</sup> Eurozone consists of EU15 states with the exceptions of Denmark, Sweden and United Kingdom,

<sup>2</sup> Data for Germany and Luxembourg for Q2 2004 is unchanged from Q2 2003 as updated detail is not available at present,

## Background Notes

<b>Purpose of Survey</b>	The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) began in September 1997, replacing the annual April Labour Force Survey (LFS). The purpose of the survey is the production of quarterly labour force estimates and occasional reports on special social topics. The survey meets the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 577/98, adopted in March 1998, which requires the introduction of quarterly labour force surveys in EU Member States.
<b>Reference Period</b>	Information is collected continuously throughout the year, with 3,000 households surveyed each week to give a total sample of 39,000 households in each quarter. The reference quarters for survey results are: Q1 - December to February, Q2 - March to May, Q3 - June to August and Q4 - September to November.
<b>Data Collection</b>	Information is collected on laptop computers, using computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) software.
<b>Sample Design</b>	<p>A two-stage sample design is used. This comprises a first stage sample of 2,600 blocks (or small areas) selected at county level to proportionately represent eight strata reflecting population density. Each block was selected to contain, on average, 75 dwellings and the sample of blocks is fixed for a period of about five years. In the second stage of sampling, 15 households are surveyed in each block to give a total quarterly sample of 39,000 households.</p> <p>Households are asked to take part in the survey for five consecutive quarters and are then replaced by other households in the same block. Thus, one fifth of the households in the survey are replaced each quarter and the QNHS sample involves an overlap of 80% between consecutive quarters and 20% between the same quarter in consecutive years.</p> <p>The survey results are weighted to agree with population estimates broken down by age, sex and region. The population estimates for April of each year are published in a separate release.</p>
<b>ILO Labour Force Classification</b>	<p>The primary classification used for the QNHS results is the ILO (International Labour Office) labour force classification. Labour Force Survey data on this basis have been published since 1988. The ILO classification distinguishes the following main subgroups of the population aged 15 or over:</p> <p><b>In Employment:</b> Persons who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business and all persons who had a job but were not at work because of illness, holidays etc. in the week.</p> <p><b>Unemployed:</b> Persons who, in the week before the survey, were without work and available for work within the next two weeks, and had taken specific steps, in the preceding four weeks, to find work.</p> <p><b>Inactive Population (not in labour force):</b> All other persons.</p> <p>The labour force comprises persons employed plus unemployed.</p>
<b>Participation, Employment and Unemployment Rates</b>	The rates given in this release are based on the ILO classification. The Participation Rate is the number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 or over. The Employment Rate is the number of employed aged 15 to 64 expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 to 64. The Unemployment Rate is the number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.
<b>Duration of Unemployment</b>	The duration of unemployment is the length of time since a person last had a job or began looking for work, whichever is more recent. The long-term unemployment rate is the number of persons unemployed for one year or more expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.
<b>Underemployment</b>	In the LFS and in the first two quarters of the QNHS, a person who had a part-time job was classified as underemployed if he/she was looking and available for another part-time job or a full-time job.

Since the March-May 1998 quarter, the category “underemployed” has been based on a new question relating to the respondent’s satisfaction with his/her current hours. Thus, a respondent who works in a part-time job is classified as “underemployed” if he/she is looking and available for another job and has explicitly stated that the hours worked currently are “too few”.

This change has affected comparability (but only within the “At work, part-time” category) between the December-February 1997/98 and subsequent quarters.

#### **Principal Economic Status Classification**

Results are also available using the Principal Economic Status (PES) classification which was used in the Labour Force Survey and the Census of Population. The PES classification is based on a single question in which respondents are asked what is their usual situation with regard to employment and given the following response categories:

- At work
- Unemployed
- Student
- Engaged on home duties
- Retired
- Other.

This PES question is asked before the sequence of questions used to derive ILO status.

#### **NACE Industrial Classification**

The QNHS sectoral employment figures are based on the EU NACE classification as defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3037/90. Eleven NACE sub-categories are distinguished in Table 2b of this release. About half of these categories correspond exactly or very closely with the sectoral breakdown formerly used in the LFS. However, there are some discontinuities between the old and new series. The CSO can provide tables showing the correspondence between the two classifications, using LFS data, to interested users.

The QNHS sectoral series in Table 2b, in each quarter up to quarter one of 1999, were revised following improvements to the activity and occupation coding procedures in the survey. This had a marginal effect on the allocation of the employment figures between sectors but did not alter the main trends at sectoral level.

#### **Occupations**

Table 4 presents occupational data. The classification system used is based on the UK Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) with some modifications to reflect the Irish labour market. This classification was also used in the 2002 and 1996 Census of Population and has replaced the previous Census and Labour Force Survey occupations classification. The old and new classifications are not perfectly comparable. The 1996 Census of Population report on occupations (Census Volume 7) contains further information on comparing the classifications.

The data given in Table 4 is at a broad level, corresponding to SOC major groups. More detailed quarterly data is available on request from the CSO.

#### **Family Units**

Table 23 presents family data. The definition used is as follows:

##### **Family Unit**

A family unit consists of either:

1. a married couple, or
2. a married couple and one or more of their never-married children, or
3. one parent and one or more of his or her never-married children, or
4. a couple living together (with never-married children, if any) who are not married to each other, where it is clear that the couple form a “de facto” family unit.

Households may contain more than one family unit or may contain a family together with other persons not in a family unit as defined above.

However, there are problems identifying some unmarried parents with children as separate family units. This happens particularly where one unmarried parent with one or more children lives with his/her parent(s) and the information recorded in the survey on the relationship to the reference person does not clearly identify the parent/child relationships. In such cases, the unmarried parent and children may not be identified as a distinct family unit. As a result, the number of family units consisting of unmarried parents with children is probably understated to some degree.

### Grossing Effect

The QNHS grossing procedure aligns the distribution of persons covered in the survey with independently determined population estimates at the level of sex, five-year age group and region. This means that the adjustment factors assigned to each spouse within a family unit will differ. Accordingly, some male and female estimates in family tables, which might be expected to be identical, differ slightly. Another factor effecting the slight difference is that, in a small number of cases, gender was incorrectly recorded or coded.

### Labour Supply Indicators

Table 20 contains three indicators of potential labour supply. These indicators take into account, in addition to the unemployed, groups outside the labour force who have indicated some interest in obtaining a job. These extra groups include discouraged workers (who are not looking for work as they believe they are not qualified or that no work is available) and other groups who want work but do not meet all the ILO criteria to be classified as unemployed. Persons who indicated that they were not available or not looking for work because they were in education were not included in the calculation of any of these indicators. The indicators are available back to 1988, when the ILO classification was first included in LFS reports.

### Comparing the LFS and the QNHS

The LFS was conducted each year in April and involved the completion of a written questionnaire in each of the sample households. The QNHS, on the other hand, involves continuous surveying (of 3,000 households each week) so that the results reflect the average situation over the course of three months. The LFS paper questionnaires have been replaced by laptop computers, allowing some key questions (such as existence of a job in the week before the survey, full-time versus part-time jobs) to be refined and improved. The main factors affecting comparability of the two surveys are:

- Seasonal effects on numbers employed and unemployed
- The change from a point-in-time to a continuous survey (survey reference period)
- Changes in the questionnaire, which has increased the observed level of labour force participation, particularly in part-time jobs.

### Changes to Questions on Employment

Information on full-time and part-time jobs is also collected using a more direct approach in the QNHS. The relevant LFS question distinguished four response categories, relating to occasional and regular as well as to full-time and part-time jobs. These concepts are now asked separately and the question on full-time or part-time work is as follows:

*“Thinking about the hours of work in the job, would you describe it as full-time or part-time?”*

The main effect of these changes has been to elicit more information about part-time employment, so that the estimates of part-time employment are higher in the QNHS than in the LFS.

This change has also increased the proportion of respondents indicating part-time involvement in the workforce. The effect of these changes is to cause a once-off discontinuity between the LFS and QNHS results.

### Seasonality

Seasonal factors do not affect annual comparisons of LFS/QNHS results. However, they do affect the sub-annual comparisons and the effects of seasonal variation in labour supply and demand are evident from the QNHS results.

Seasonal factors are most clearly visible in the results for the June-August quarter, when the number of persons in employment is at its highest. Unemployment also increases in that quarter, when more people are available and looking for work. Other summer seasonal effects can be seen in the sectoral employment figures (with strong results for retailing, hotels and restaurants) and in the lower number of students in summer. There is also evidence that employment and unemployment are both lower in the winter months.

**Seasonal Adjustment  
Methodology**

The data from the QNHS was adjusted using the X-11-ARIMA procedure. This procedure is an adaptation of the U.S. Bureau of the Census X-11 seasonal adjustment programme developed by Statistics Canada.

The first task in the process is to identify whether the series being adjusted is best considered additive or multiplicative for seasonal adjustment purposes. All of the QNHS series analysed were found to be multiplicative.

Once the series has been identified as being either additive or multiplicative the method fits an ARIMA (Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average) model to the unadjusted series and then uses the model forecast to extend the unadjusted series. The extended series is then seasonally adjusted using the standard X-11 seasonal adjustment method. The extension of the series improves the estimation of the seasonal factors and reduces revisions to the seasonally adjusted series as new data becomes available. To be able to use X-11-ARIMA you must have at least 5 years data.

The essential difference between X-11 and X-11-ARIMA is the use of ARIMA (Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average) models to improve the adjustment at the end of the time series by extending the time series. In the ARIMA model identification phase an attempt to determine the type of underlying probabilistic process that governs the behaviour of the time series is made. The choice of ARIMA model in this process was restricted to the 5 pre-defined models which were identified by Statistics Canada as fitting the majority of well behaved time series.

**NUTS2 and NUTS3  
regions**

The regional classifications in this release are based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The NUTS3 regions correspond to the eight Regional Authorities established under the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order, 1993, which came into operation on 1 January 1994. The NUTS2 regions, which were proposed by Government and agreed by Eurostat in 1999, are groupings of the NUTS3 regions. The composition of the regions is set out below.

<b>Border, Midland and Western NUTS2 Region</b>		<b>Southern and Eastern NUTS2 Region</b>	
<b>Border</b>	Cavan Donegal Leitrim Louth Monaghan Sligo	<b>Dublin</b>	Dublin Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Fingal South Dublin
<b>Midland</b>	Laoighis Longford Offaly Westmeath	<b>Mid-East</b>	Kildare Meath Wicklow
<b>West</b>	Galway City Galway County Mayo Roscommon	<b>Mid-West</b>	Clare Limerick City Limerick County North Tipperary
		<b>South-East</b>	Carlow Kilkenny South Tipperary Waterford City Waterford County Wexford
		<b>South-West</b>	Cork City Cork County Kerry

**QNHS Social Modules**

While the main purpose of the QNHS is the production of quarterly labour force estimates, there is also a provision for the collection of data on social topics through the inclusion of special survey modules. The selection of the major national modules undertaken to date has been largely based on the results of a canvas of users (over 100 organisations) that was conducted by the CSO in 1996 and most recently 2002. The results of the canvas are presented to the National Statistics Board and they are asked to indicate their priorities for the years ahead.

The schedule for social modules in any given year is based on the following structure:

<b>Quarter 1</b>	Annual modules update (Disability, Pensions, Childcare, Accidents and Illness)
<b>Quarter 2</b>	EU module (always covered under EU legislation)
<b>Quarter 3</b>	National module and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Survey
<b>Quarter 4</b>	National module

The table below outlines the social modules published to date in the QNHS

<b>Reference Quarter</b>	<b>Social Module</b>
Q3 2004	ICT household survey
Q4 2003	Crime and Victimisation
Q3 2003	Housing
Q3 2003	ICT household survey
Q2 2003	Life long learning
Q4 2002	Childcare
Q3 2002	Teleworking
Q3 2002	Voter registration and participation
Q2 2002	Disability in the labour force (Annual update Q1 2004)
Q1 2002	Pension provision (Annual update Q1 2004)
Q3 2001	Health
Q2 2001	Length and pattern of working time
Q4 2000	Home computing
Q2 2000	Transition from school to working life
Q1 2000	Travel to work
Q1 1999	Recycling and energy conservation
Q4 1998	Crime and Victimisation
Q3 1998	Home computing
Q3 1998	Housing and households

Planned future modules are as follows:

<b>Reference Quarter</b>	<b>Social Module</b>
Q2 2004	Length and pattern of working time
Q3 2004	Travel to work
Q4 2004	Equality
Q1 2005	Annual update module
Q2 2005	Reconciliation between work and family life
Q3 2005	ICT household survey
Q3 2005	Recycling and energy
Q4 2005	Pension provision
Q1 2006	Annual update module
Q2 2006	Transition from work into retirement
Q3 2006	ICT household survey
Q3 2006	Social capital and sport
Q4 2006	Health