INTRODUCTION

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Ireland North and South, A Statistical Profile has been jointly prepared by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in the Republic of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Both organisations have worked closely with their colleagues in government departments North and South.

The department or other body responsible for supplying the data has been noted at the relevant table. A full list of data sources together with contact points for further information appears at the end of the *Profile*.

Definitions and Conventions

Technical notes

Each chapter of this Statistical Profile is followed by technical notes which should be read in conjunction with the appropriate tables.

Non-calendar years

Academic year: e.g., September 1997 to June 1998 is shown as 1997/98.

Financial year: e.g., 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998 is shown as 1997-98.

Data covering more than one year: e.g., 1996, 1997 and 1998 are shown as 1996-98.

Rounding of figures

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Symbols

The following symbols are used throughout this Statistical Profile:

- .. not available
- . not applicable
- negligible (less than half the final digit shown)
- 0 nil
- p provisional
- * sample size too small for a reliable estimate

Typeface

Bold text denotes summary values.

Annual average exchange rate - Units of Pound Sterling (Stg£) per ECU or Euro¹

Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ²
Rate	0.776	0.829	0.814	0.692	0.676	0.659	0.609	0.622

¹Up to 1998 rates are against the ECU (European Currency Unit); from 1999 on, rates are against the euro.

²There was an enlargement of the Euro area on 1 January 2001 with the adoption by Greece of the single currency. Source Central Bank of Ireland