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LABOUR MARKET

- In 1996, 54% of the Republic of Ireland population aged 15 and over were economically active (i.e. in employment or unemployed). This compared with Northern Ireland where 59% of the population aged 16 and over were economically active. By 2001, the economic activity rate was 59% in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- Between 1996 and 2001, female participation in the Republic's labour market increased from 41% of all females aged 15 and above to 48%. In contrast, the broadly corresponding NI proportion remained stable at around 49%.
- The Republic of Ireland has a higher proportion of people in employment in the sectors *Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Financial and other business services and Hotels and restaurants*. Northern Ireland shows higher proportions in *Public administration and defence and Education and Health*.
- From 1996 to 1998, the Republic of Ireland's unemployment rate was higher than the corresponding NI rate. Since 1999, however, the Republic has had a lower rate of unemployment. Throughout 1996-2001, the NI unemployment rate for males has tended to be higher than the corresponding Republic of Ireland rate.

Table 5.1 ILO¹ economic status

Thousands

Description	Spring 1996	Spring 1997	Spring 1998	Spring 1999	Spring 2000	Spring 2001
Republic of Ireland						
Persons aged 15 years and over						
In labour force	1,508	1,539	1,621	1,688	1,746	1,782
In employment	1,329	1,380	1,495	1,591	1,671	1,717
Unemployed	179	159	127	97	75	65
Not in labour force	1,259	1,276	1,249	1,227	1,217	1,236
Total	2,767	2,815	2,870	2,916	2,963	3,017
Northern Ireland						
Persons aged 16 years and over						
In labour force	722	737	741	747	732	755
In employment	654	682	687	693	681	708
Unemployed	69	55	53	54	51	47
Not in labour force	497	497	506	508	532	520
Total	1,219	1,234	1,247	1,255	1,264	1,275

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*
 Northern Ireland: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

¹International Labour Organisation.

Table 5.2 Males by ILO¹ economic status

Thousands

Description	Spring 1996	Spring 1997	Spring 1998	Spring 1999	Spring 2000	Spring 2001
Republic of Ireland						
Males aged 15 years and over						
In labour force	925	937	979	1,007	1,035	1,054
In employment	915	840	900	947	990	1,014
Unemployed	110	97	79	59	45	40
Not in labour force	434	446	432	427	423	432
Total Males	1,359	1,383	1,395	1,433	1,458	1,486
Northern Ireland						
Males aged 16 years and over						
In labour force	413	416	425	418	418	430
In employment	362	377	386	383	385	399
Unemployed	51	39	38	35	34	32
Not in labour force	172	178	176	187	191	186
Total Males	585	594	601	605	610	616

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*
 Northern Ireland: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

¹International Labour Organisation.

Table 5.3 Females by ILO¹ economic status

Thousands

Females	Spring 1996	Spring 1997	Spring 1998	Spring 1999	Spring 2000	Spring 2001
Republic of Ireland						
Females aged 15 years and over						
In labour force	582	602	642	681	711	728
In employment	513	540	595	644	681	703
Unemployed	69	62	48	38	30	26
Not in labour force	826	830	817	801	794	803
Total Females	1,408	1,432	1,459	1,482	1,505	1,532
Northern Ireland						
Females aged 16 years and over						
In labour force	309	321	316	329	313	324
In employment	292	305	301	311	296	310
Unemployed	17	16	15	18	17	15
Not in labour force	325	319	330	321	340	334
Total Females	634	640	646	650	654	659

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*
 Northern Ireland: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

¹International Labour Organisation.

Table 5.4 Labour force participation rates

Percentages

Persons	Spring 1996	Spring 1997	Spring 1998	Spring 1999	Spring 2000	Spring 2001
Republic of Ireland						
Males	68.1	67.8	69.4	70.2	71.0	71.1
Females	41.4	42.0	44.0	46.0	47.2	48.6
Total	54.5	54.7	56.5	57.9	58.9	59.7
Northern Ireland						
Males	70.6	70.0	70.7	69.1	68.6	69.9
Females	48.8	50.1	48.9	50.6	47.9	49.3
Total	59.2	59.7	59.4	59.5	57.9	59.2

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office
Northern Ireland: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Table 5.5 Persons in employment by gender and industry, Spring 2001

Industrial Sector	Thousands			Percentages		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Republic of Ireland						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	107	13	120	10.5	1.8	6.9
Other production industries	222	95	317	21.8	13.5	18.4
Construction	172	8	180	16.9	1.1	10.4
Wholesale and retail trade	131	117	248	12.9	16.6	14.4
Hotels and restaurants	43	62	105	4.2	8.8	6.1
Transport, storage and communication	81	30	110	7.9	4.2	6.4
Financial and other business services	111	108	218	10.9	15.3	12.7
Public administration and defence	45	35	80	4.4	4.9	4.6
Education and Health	60	186	245	5.9	26.4	14.2
Community, social and personal services	42	50	92	4.1	7.1	5.3
All industries	1,014	703	1,716	100	100	100.0
Northern Ireland						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	23	*	26	5.8	*	3.7
Other production industries	84	28	112	21.2	9.2	15.9
Construction	69	*	74	17.5	*	10.6
Wholesale and retail trade	54	48	102	13.8	15.6	14.6
Hotels and restaurants	13	15	28	3.3	5.0	4.0
Transport, storage and communication	28	9	37	7.0	3.0	5.2
Financial and other business services	35	27	62	8.9	8.8	8.8
Public administration and defence	49	62	111	12.3	20.4	15.8
Education and Health	29	95	124	7.3	31.2	17.7
Community, social and personal services	11	13	24	2.9	4.1	3.4
All industries	394	305	700	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office
Northern Ireland: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

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Table 5.6 ILO¹ unemployment rates by gender

	<i>Percentages</i>					
Persons	Spring 1996	Spring 1997	Spring 1998	Spring 1999	Spring 2000	Spring 2001
Republic of Ireland						
Males	11.9	10.4	8.1	5.9	4.3	3.8
Females	11.9	10.3	7.4	5.5	4.2	3.5
Total	11.9	10.3	7.8	5.7	4.3	3.7
Northern Ireland²						
Males	12.5	9.6	9.1	8.4	8.0	7.2
Females	6.3	5.7	5.5	6.1	5.8	4.9
Total	9.9	7.9	7.5	7.4	7.0	6.2

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office
Northern Ireland: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

¹International Labour Organisation.

²Northern Ireland figures are seasonally adjusted.

Figure 5.1 ILO unemployment rates

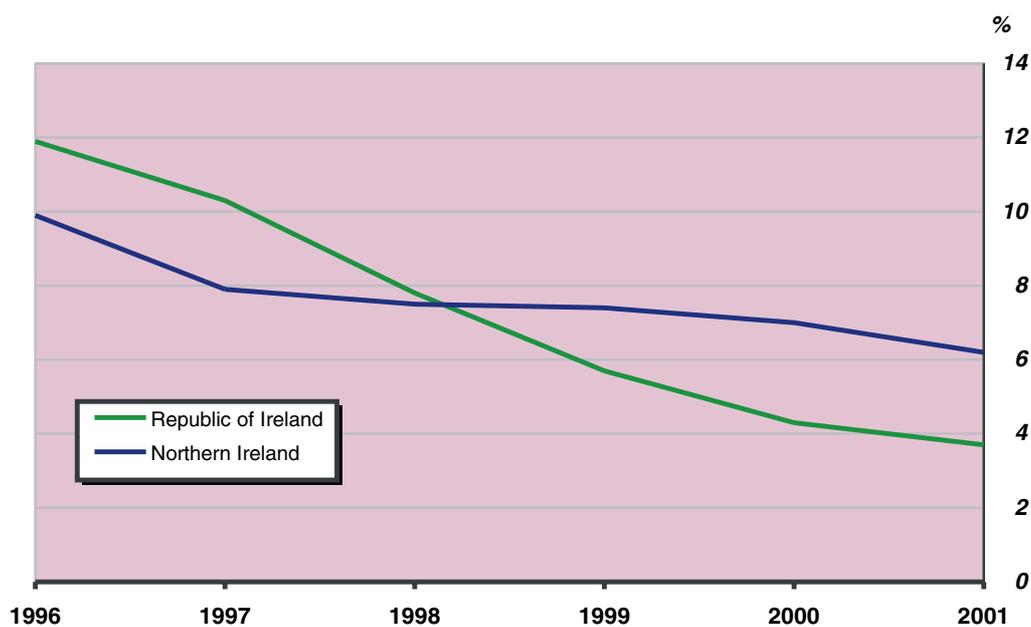


Table 5.7 ILO long term unemployed¹

Number and percentages

Period	Republic of Ireland		Northern Ireland	
	Total long term unemployed	Long term as % of total unemployed	Total long term unemployed	Long term as % of total unemployed
1990	110,000	63.9	46,000	57.9
1991	120,000	60.3	46,000	54.0
1992	117,000	56.4	50,000	58.3
1993	125,000	57.0	51,000	58.9
1994	128,000	60.8	47,000	59.1
1995	103,000	58.2	48,000	61.3
1996	103,000	57.7	38,000	55.6
1997	86,000	54.3	31,000	56.4
1998	64,000	50.2	24,000	45.8
1999	42,000	42.9	29,000	53.9
2000	27,000	36.6	20,000	39.8
2001	20,000	31.3	20,000	43.2

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office
Northern Ireland: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

¹The long-term unemployment rate is the number of persons unemployed for one year or more expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.

Table 5.8 Claimants of welfare benefits associated with unemployment

Years	Republic of Ireland			Northern Ireland		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	1990	152,100	72,600	224,700	72,200	22,900
1991	170,500	83,500	253,900	75,900	22,900	98,700
1992	187,200	96,000	283,100	80,500	23,700	104,200
1993	193,800	100,500	294,300	79,900	23,400	103,300
1994	184,400	98,000	282,400	75,100	21,700	96,700
1995	178,500	99,300	277,800	68,600	19,300	87,800
1996	175,600	103,600	279,200	64,900	18,900	83,800
1997	155,800	98,500	254,400	49,900	13,500	63,400
1998	135,700	91,400	227,100	44,800	12,600	57,400
1999	111,600	81,600	193,200	39,300	11,400	50,700
2000	88,700	66,700	155,400	32,000	10,100	42,100
2001	83,000	59,300	142,300	30,000	9,500	39,500

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office
Northern Ireland: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Note: Figures for the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are annual averages.

See Technical Note.

Figure 5.2 Total claimants of welfare benefits associated with unemployment

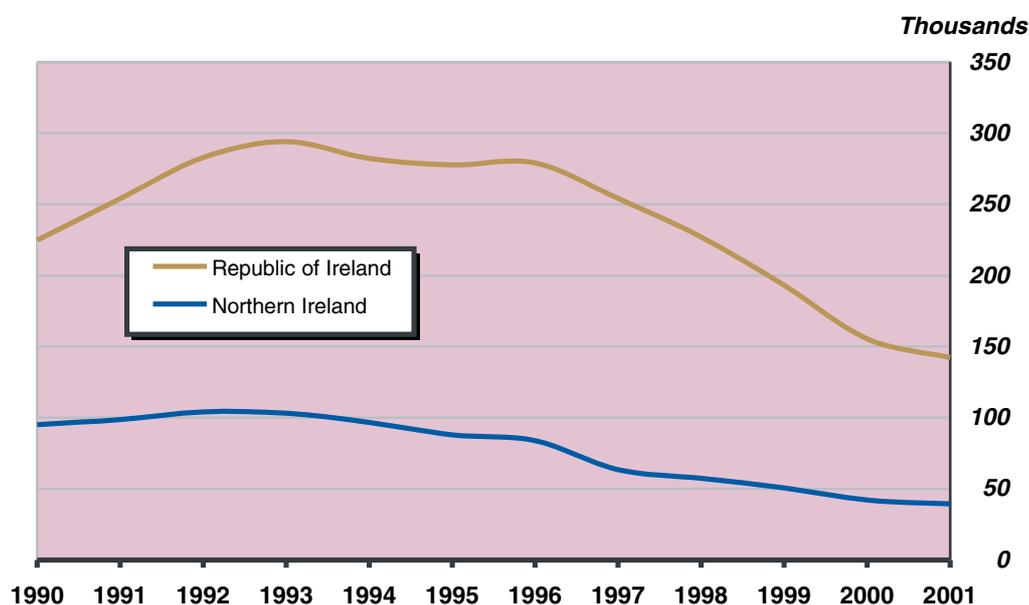


Table 5.9 Youth claimants of welfare benefits associated with unemployment

Period	<i>Number</i>					
	Republic of Ireland			Northern Ireland		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1990	33,254	22,373	55,627	18,233	7,969	26,202
1991	40,373	26,799	67,172	18,644	7,697	26,341
1992	47,598	31,583	79,181	19,877	7,948	27,825
1993	51,454	34,296	85,750	19,170	8,117	27,287
1994	48,013	32,411	80,424	17,330	7,066	24,396
1995	44,099	30,270	74,369	14,628	6,073	20,701
1996	41,615	29,581	71,196	14,110	5,864	19,974
1997	34,118	25,031	59,149	11,134	4,500	15,634
1998	27,733	20,656	48,389	10,143	4,106	14,249
1999	20,934	15,550	36,484	8,678	3,868	12,546
2000	14,687	11,427	26,114	7,493	3,361	10,854
2001	13,010	9,580	22,590	7,032	3,275	10,307

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office
Northern Ireland: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Note: Data for both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are April figures.
Youth claimants refers to those claimants under 25 years old.

Technical Notes

I.

ILO Unemployment Rate – the percentage of economically active people who are unemployed on the ILO measure.

In Labour Force – Economically Active – people aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland who are either in employment or ILO unemployed. In the Republic of Ireland figures refer to persons aged 15 and over.

In Employment – In Northern Ireland those aged 16 and over who did at least one hour's paid work in the reference week (either as an employee or self-employed); those who had a job from which they were temporarily absent (on holiday for example); those participating in government training and employment programmes; and those working unpaid in family businesses. Republic of Ireland figures refer to persons aged 15 and over.

ILO Unemployed – the International Labour Organisation defines as unemployed those people without a job who were available to start work in the two weeks following their LFS interview, who had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained. This definition of unemployment is in accordance with that adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians and promulgated by the ILO in 1982.

Not in Labour Force – Economically Inactive – people who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This group includes, for example, all those who were looking after a family/home or who were retired.

Working age – working age refers to ages 16 to 59 for females and 16 to 64 for males in Northern Ireland. In the Republic of Ireland working age refers to ages 15 to 64 for both males and females.

II.

NI claimant count unemployment figures are derived from records of claimants held at Social Security offices. The term “claimants” in the claimant count is used to include those who claim Jobseekers Allowance and National Insurance credits. The figures include severely disabled unemployed, but exclude students seeking vacation work and those whose benefits have been temporarily stopped. NI averages in Table 5.8 are seasonally adjusted.

In the Republic of Ireland, the Live Register is compiled from returns made directly to the Central Statistics Office by each local office of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. It comprises persons under 65 years of age in the following categories:

- All Claimants for Unemployment Benefit (UB) excluding systematic short-time workers.
- Applicants for Unemployment Assistance (UA) excluding smallholders/farm assists and self-employed persons.
- Other registrants including applicants for credited Social Welfare contributions but excluding those directly involved in an industrial dispute. (Tables 5.8,5.9)