

## **Preface**

This is the fourth issue of the annual Statistical Yearbook of Ireland (which replaced the former Statistical Abstract). This Yearbook is also available in electronic format on the CSO website and can be downloaded free of charge at [www.cso.ie/principalstats/yearbook2004.html](http://www.cso.ie/principalstats/yearbook2004.html).

It contains tables and graphs compiled by the Central Statistics Office as well as statistical information derived from the administrative work of Government Departments, Semi-State Bodies and Local Authorities.

The tables in this Yearbook were prepared during August 2004 and, in general, they contain details relating to the year 2003. In many cases, particularly for sub-annual time series, more recent results can be obtained from the CSO's specific subject-matter releases and publications.

The 2004 Yearbook contains an article which documents Ireland's economic and social change from 1973-2003, to mark thirty years membership of the European Union.

A variety of data relating to Northern Ireland is contained in the appendix; caution should be exercised when comparing these tables with those of the Republic as collection methodology may differ.

The latest statistics are issued by the Central Statistics Office in statistical releases as soon as they become available. Full information on all published statistics is provided in the annual 'Guide to CSO Publications and Information Services', which is available free on our website and on request.

The CSO's Internet site [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie) contains a wide range of statistics and information on many topics relating to the office itself and the statistics it compiles and disseminates. All statistical releases are published on the Internet at the time of issue.

The Central Statistics Office would like to thank other Government Departments and Organisations and Government Departments in Northern Ireland, for their co-operation in supplying material for this Yearbook.

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## Definitions and Conventions

### *Technical notes*

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

### *Rounding of figures*

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

### *Symbols*

The following symbols have been used throughout the volume:

- n/a Data not available.
- Magnitude nil or negligible.
- \* Sample size too small for a reliable estimate.

### *Metric conversions*

kg	=	kilogram = 2.2046 lbs
tonne	=	metric ton = 0.9842 tons
ha	=	hectare = 2.4711 acres
litre	=	0.2200 gallons

### **Average annual exchange rate - Units of Pound Sterling (Stg£) per ECU or Euro<sup>1</sup>**

1999	0.6587
2000	0.6095
2001	0.6219
2002	0.6288
2003	0.6920

*There was an enlargement of the Euro area on 1 January 2001 with the adoption by Greece of the single currency.*

2001	0.622
2002	0.629

*Source: Central Bank of Ireland*