



Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

Report on Response Burden placed on Irish Businesses by CSO inquiries in 2008

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Executive Summary

Background

In 2007, the EU agreed a target of reducing administrative burden by 25% by 2012; this target was subsequently adopted by the Irish government.

In its *Statement of Strategy 2008-2010*, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) identified as a corporate priority the minimising of response burden on CSO inquiry respondents. To achieve this, the CSO is taking a number of actions, including increasing the use of electronic reporting methods, adopting better sampling techniques, increasing the co-ordination between surveys, and making greater statistical use of administrative records. A number of burden-reduction measures have already been implemented. These include reducing sample sizes, reducing the number of questions asked on inquiry forms, instigating changes to payroll software to facilitate the automated completion of inquiries on employment and earnings, and expanding the use of administrative data, especially that of the Revenue Commissioners.

This report presents details of the burden imposed on Irish business by making CSO statistical returns for surveys issued in years 2005 through to 2008. It covers the thirty-one CSO surveys directed to Irish business enterprises, as well as the three farm surveys and the Road Freight Transport Survey (which is not an enterprise survey). This is the second such report produced by the CSO; the initial report was published in 2008.

Business enterprise surveys

Table A below is a summary of the main results for business enterprise surveys (i.e., surveys of enterprises in NACE Rev. 1.1. sections C through to O) presented in the tables in Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 of this report.

The total number of CSO business enterprise surveys in 2008 was 31. Combined, these surveys issued almost 362,600 inquiry forms in that year, of which almost 266,800 were completed and returned.

The average number of inquiry forms received by a business enterprise in 2008 was 1.3. This figure is obtained when the total number of forms issued is divided by the population of business enterprises. The average number of forms returned by a business enterprise in that year was 1.0.

The total number of hours expended by business enterprises in completing and returning CSO inquiry forms was almost 250,900 in 2008. These figures exclude the Business Profile Inquiry, the

Quarterly Survey of Construction, and the Balance of Payments inquiries, for which time taken to complete forms was not available. The average amount of time taken to complete a single CSO survey was almost 59 minutes in 2008.

The average amount of time taken to complete all returns per unit of enterprise population was almost 55 minutes in 2008. This figure is obtained when the number of hours taken to complete the returns is divided by the population of business enterprises.

Table A Business enterprise surveys - forms issued and forms returned, time taken to complete returns

	2007	2008 ¹
Total number of CSO Business Surveys	30	31
Total number of forms issued	367,374	362,597
Total number of forms returned	275,638	266,757
Average no. of forms received by an enterprise	1.3	1.3
Average no. of forms returned by an enterprise	1.0	1.0
Total number of hours to complete returns*	270,170.5	250,854.7
Average number of minutes to complete a return*	62.7	58.7
Average number of minutes taken to complete these CSO returns per unit of enterprise population*	59.5	54.5
* Excludes the Business Profile Inquiry, the Quarterly Survey of Construction, and the Balance of Payments inquiries, which currently do not collect information on minutes taken to complete the inquiry form.		
¹ Preliminary		

Farm surveys

Table B below provides a summary of the CSO farm survey information presented in Chapter 3.

There were three CSO farm surveys in 2008, issuing almost 44,600 forms in the course of the year and receiving more than 37,700 completed returns.

The average number of inquiry forms received by a farm in 2008 was 0.3. This figure is obtained when the total number of forms issued is divided by the population of farms. The average number of forms returned by a farm in that year was 0.3.

In 2008, the total number of hours spent in completing and returning CSO farm survey forms was more than 14,900. These figures exclude the Pig Survey, for which time taken to complete forms was not available. The average amount of time taken to complete a single CSO farm survey was over 24 minutes in 2008.

The average number of minutes taken to complete all returns per unit of farm population was 7 in 2008. This figure is obtained when the number of hours taken to complete the returns is divided by the population of farms.

Table B Farm surveys - forms issued, forms returned, and time taken to complete returns

	2007	2008 ¹
Total number of farm surveys	3	3
Total number of forms issued	107,987	44,558
Total number of forms returned	77,365	37,716
Average number of forms received by a farm	0.8	0.3
Average number of forms returned by a farm	0.6	0.3
Total number of hours to complete returns*	34,448.1	14,930.8
Average number of minutes to complete a return*	27.0	24.2
Average number of minutes to complete these returns per unit of farm population*	16.1	7.0

¹ Preliminary

* Excludes the Pig Survey, which currently does not collect information on minutes taken to complete the inquiry form.

Introduction

This report presents analysis of the burden imposed on Irish business by making Central Statistics Office (CSO) statistical returns for surveys issued in years 2005 through to 2008. This is the second such report produced by the CSO; the initial report was published in 2008. The report covers the thirty-one CSO surveys directed to Irish business enterprises, i.e., enterprises in the industrial, construction, and services sectors (NACE Rev. 1.1 sections C through O), as well as the three farm surveys and the Road Freight Transport Survey (which is not an enterprise survey). Note that the Intrastat survey, which is conducted on behalf of the CSO by VIMA Division of the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, is also covered in this report. Presented in the following pages are details of sampled enterprises, responding enterprises, and time taken to complete questionnaires.

The Business Regulation Forum reported in April 2007 that regulation, including statistical data collection, is seen by Irish businesses, especially small businesses, as imposing a significant burden on them. Other countries in Europe have reported a similar experience. As a result, the EU has agreed a target¹ of reducing administrative burden by 25% by 2012. This target has subsequently been adopted by the Irish government.

In its *Statement of Strategy 2008-2010*², the Central Statistics Office (CSO) has identified as a corporate priority the minimising of response burden on CSO inquiry respondents. To achieve this, the CSO is taking a number of actions, including increasing the use of electronic reporting methods, adopting better sampling techniques, increasing the co-ordination between surveys, and making greater statistical use of administrative records. A number of burden-reduction measures have already been taken. For example, in the past year, the CSO has instigated changes to payroll software to facilitate the automated completion of the greater part of the Earnings, Hours and Employment Costs (EHECS) inquiry form, reduced the sample sizes of large-coverage surveys such as the Business Register Inquiry, and reduced the number of questions asked in structural surveys such as the Annual Services Inquiry. Another recent development is the publication of the Revenue SPAR report³, which made a number of recommendations as to how the CSO can make greater use of administrative data held by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners; once implemented, these recommendations will contribute significantly to the reduction of the overall administrative burden placed on Irish businesses.

¹ COM(2007)23: Action Programme for reducing administrative burdens in the European Union

² <http://www.cso.ie/aboutus/documents/statementofstrategy2008-2010.pdf>

³ http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/corporate%20publications/CSO_Revenue%20SPAR.pdf

In addition to making greater use of administrative sources, it should also be noted that the CSO is now making greater use of its existing data sources. The number of CSO outputs has increased considerably in recent years without an increase in the number of surveys or indeed in the sample sizes of these surveys. Examples of such new outputs are the separate reports on *Measuring Ireland's Progress*, on *Women and Men in Ireland*, on *Small Business in Ireland*, and on *Family Business in Ireland*.

Information on the report methodology may be found in the Background Notes at the end of the report.

Chapter 1 - CSO Business Enterprise Surveys

Introduction

Details for the CSO inquiries which surveyed business enterprises (NACE Rev. 1.1 sections C through O) in years 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 are presented in the following tables. For all tables, figures for the number of forms issued are final for all years, as are figures for the number of returns for years 2005, 2006, and 2007; figures for the number of returns for 2008 are preliminary. This years report also contains some revisions to previous years' figures.

Forms issued and forms returned

The total number of CSO surveys to business enterprises in 2008 was 31. This figure covers annual, quarterly, and monthly inquiries. In that year, these 31 surveys issued almost 362,600 inquiry forms to business enterprises. Of this number, an estimated 266,800 forms were returned, which equates to a response rate of almost 74%.

The average number of forms received by an enterprise in 2008 was 1.3. This figure is obtained when the total number of forms issued in 2008 is divided by the population of business enterprises. Similarly, the average number of forms returned by an enterprise in 2008 was 1.0. See *Table 1.1*

Table 1.1 Forms issued and forms returned, 2005 - 2008

	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Total number of CSO Business Surveys	27	28	30	31
Total number of forms issued	315,338	322,392	367,374	362,597
Total number of forms returned	249,376	257,682	275,638	266,757
Response Rate (%)	79.1	79.9	75.0	73.6
Average no. of forms received by an enterprise	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Average no. of forms returned by an enterprise	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

¹ Preliminary

Distribution of forms issued

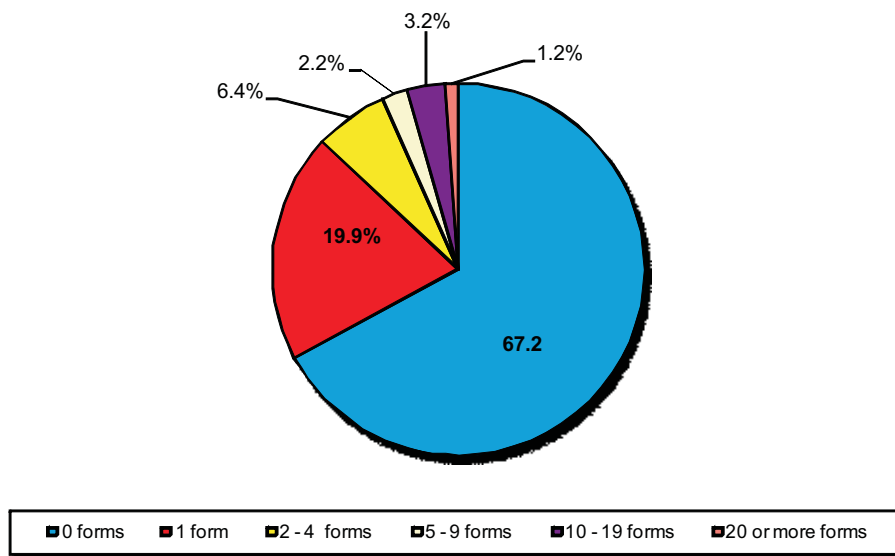
Table 1.2 shows the distribution of inquiry forms issued by the CSO. In 2008, more than 67% of enterprises did not receive a form, i.e., were not surveyed by any CSO inquiry. This figure compares to a figure of more than 57% of enterprises which were not surveyed in 2007 and reflects higher sampling proportions by the major CSO surveys in 2007. In 2008, almost 20% of enterprises received one form, while the corresponding figure for 2007 was over 31%. In both 2007 and 2008, more than 87% of businesses received a maximum of one CSO form. For both years, the percentage of businesses receiving twenty or more forms was 1.2%. See *Table 1.2 and Figure 1.1*.

Note that an enterprise may receive a maximum of one form for each annual survey, but may receive up to four forms for a quarterly survey, or up to twelve forms for a monthly survey.

Table 1.2 Distribution of forms issued, 2005 - 2008

Year	% of enterprises receiving n forms						Total
	0 forms	1 form	2 - 4 forms	5 - 9 forms	10 - 19 forms	20 or more forms	
2005	62.2	26.5	5.3	1.5	3.4	1.1	100.0
2006	67.4	21.7	4.3	1.9	3.4	1.2	100.0
2007	57.3	31.3	5.3	1.7	3.1	1.2	100.0
2008	67.2	19.9	6.4	2.2	3.2	1.2	100.0

Figure 1.1 Distribution of forms issued, 2008



Distribution of forms returned

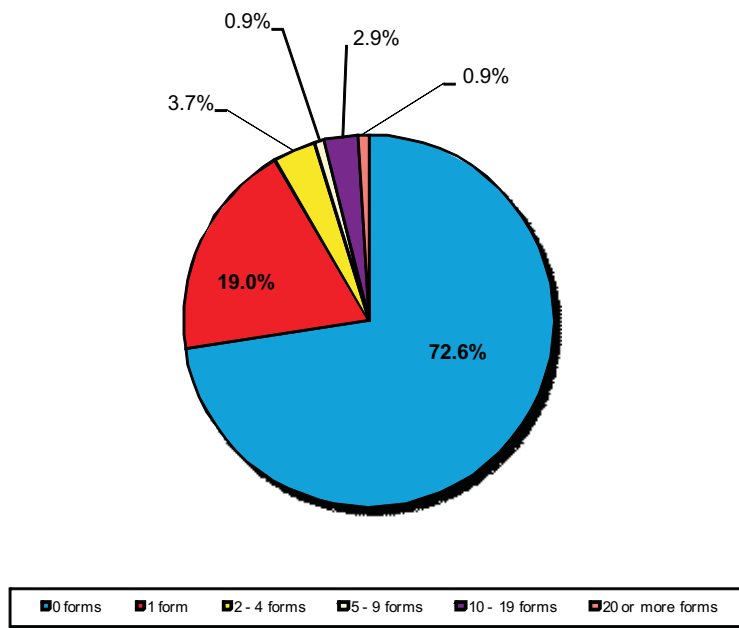
The percentages of business enterprises returning varying numbers of CSO inquiry forms are presented in Table 1.3. Figures are not yet available for the year 2008. In 2007, almost 73% of all business enterprises did not respond to any CSO inquiry (i.e., returned zero forms). This figure is made up of the more than 57% of businesses which did not receive a CSO form (see Table 1.2) and those enterprises which received at least one CSO form but failed to make any return. The percentage of businesses returning one form in 2007 was 19%, while almost 1% of businesses returned twenty or more forms. The percentage of businesses returning a maximum of one form in 2007 was almost 92%. See Table 1.3 and Figure 1.2.

Table 1.3 Distribution of forms returned, 2005 - 2008

Year	% of enterprises returning n forms						Total
	0 forms	1 form	2 - 4 forms	5 - 9 forms	10 - 19 forms	20 or more forms	
2005	74.0	16.8	4.2	0.9	3.1	0.9	100.0
2006	76.5	14.4	3.8	1.1	3.1	1.0	100.0
2007	72.6	19.0	3.7	0.9	2.9	0.9	100.0
2008	:	:	:	:	:	:	100.0

: not available

Figure 1.2 Distribution of forms returned in 2007



Forms received and forms returned, by economic sector

Table 1.4 presents details on the number of forms received and the number of forms returned by business enterprises, broken down by broad economic sector.

The maximum number of forms which could be received by an enterprise in 2008 was 86, for businesses in the Services sector, while businesses in the Construction sector could potentially receive up to 59 forms and those in Industry could receive up to 69 forms. Note that each annual survey contributes one form to these figures, each quarterly survey contributes four forms, while each monthly survey accounts for twelve forms.

In contrast to the number of forms which could be received by an enterprise, the average number of forms actually received by an enterprise in 2008 was 1.3 forms, in line with previous years. In 2008, the average number of forms received by enterprises in the Industry sector was 5.5 forms, while the figure for the Construction sector was 0.7 forms. The corresponding figure for the Services sector for 2008 was 1.2 forms.

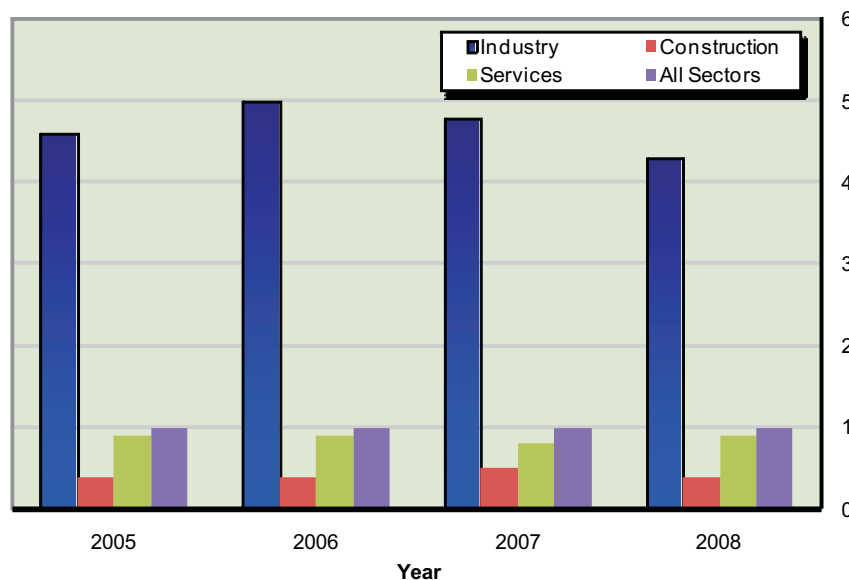
The average number of forms returned by an enterprise in 2008 was unchanged, at 1.0 forms. The sector returning the highest number of forms per enterprise was Industry, at 4.3 forms per enterprise. See Table 1.4 and also Figure 1.3.

Table 1.4 Forms received, and forms returned, by economic sector

Sector	Max no. of forms which could be issued				Average no. of forms received by an enterprise				Average no. of forms returned by an enterprise			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Industry	63	67	69	69	5.7	6.2	6.2	5.5	4.6	5.0	4.8	4.3
Construction	53	57	58	59	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
Services	69	73	75	86	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9
All Sectors	:	:	:	:	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

¹ Preliminary
: Not Applicable

Figure 1.3 Average number of forms returned by an enterprise



Breakdown by economic sector

Table 1.5 shows the percentage of all business enterprises which received at least one CSO inquiry form, and the percentage of all business enterprises which returned at least one CSO form, broken down by economic sector, for years 2005 through to 2008.

In 2008, almost 33% of enterprises received at least one form, a drop from almost 43% in 2007, when a number of the major CSO surveys had larger samples. The greatest contributor to the change was the Construction sector, which contains a high proportion of business enterprises; here, more than 28% of enterprises were surveyed in 2007, compared with just over 22% in 2008. Although the biggest sectoral decrease was in Education (decreasing from more than 61% to almost 22%), this sector, due to its relatively small number of enterprises, was not a significant contributor to the overall change.

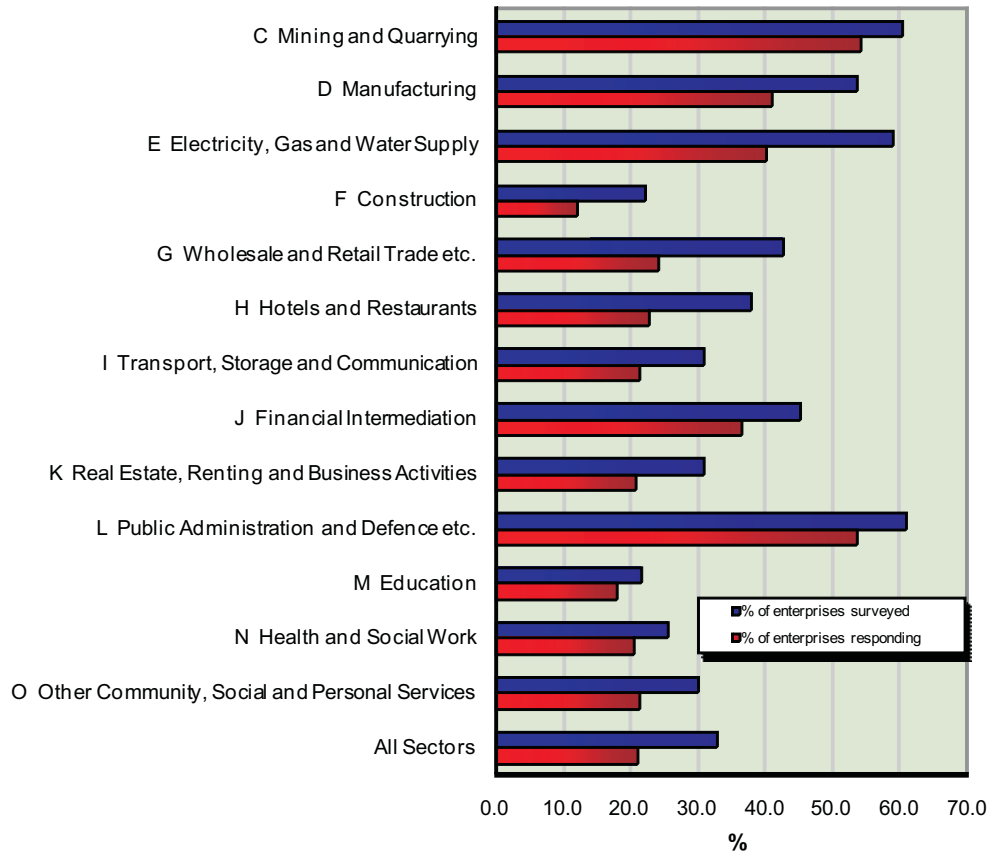
Over 21% of all businesses returned CSO forms in 2008, down from more than 27% in 2007. In the Construction sector, almost 12% of all enterprises returned forms in 2008, compared with more than 15% in 2007. See Table 1.5 and Figure 1.4.

Table 1.5 Percentage of enterprises surveyed, and percentage of enterprises responding, by economic sector

Sector	% of enterprises surveyed				% of enterprises responding			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
C Mining and Quarrying	63.9	68.1	73.2	60.2	57.1	61.4	65.9	54.2
D Manufacturing	50.3	48.9	57.5	53.5	42.4	42.8	44.1	41.0
E Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	51.6	54.8	58.3	58.9	32.1	42.5	39.7	40.2
F Construction	32.6	30.8	28.5	22.1	16.2	17.1	15.3	11.9
G Wholesale and Retail Trade etc.	43.2	39.2	49.5	42.7	32.9	31.2	28.0	24.1
H Hotels and Restaurants	49.6	31.5	47.0	37.9	29.9	22.3	28.0	22.6
I Transport, Storage and Communication	32.8	34.1	48.3	30.7	23.1	23.0	33.6	21.4
J Financial Intermediation	48.8	53.4	66.1	45.1	41.2	44.7	53.3	36.4
K Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	30.7	29.7	41.0	30.9	23.8	23.3	27.3	20.6
L Public Administration and Defence etc.	55.0	68.8	65.3	60.7	47.4	60.5	57.6	53.5
M Education	53.0	8.3	61.1	21.7	35.5	5.9	50.6	18.0
N Health and Social Work	42.3	13.4	55.8	25.4	33.9	8.4	44.9	20.5
O Other Community, Social and Personal Services	35.6	22.3	38.7	30.1	25.0	17.0	27.2	21.2
All Sectors	37.8	32.6	42.7	32.8	26.0	23.5	27.5	21.1

¹ Preliminary

Figure 1.4 Percentage of enterprises surveyed, and percentage of enterprises responding, by economic sector, 2008



Size of business

The percentage of all business enterprises receiving at least one CSO form, and the percentage of all business enterprises returning at least one CSO form, broken down by size of enterprise, is shown in Table 1.6. In 2008, more than 97% of the enterprises having 50 or more persons engaged were surveyed at least once, compared with more than 87% of businesses having 20 - 49 persons engaged and more than 29% of businesses in the less than 20 persons engaged category.

In terms of response to CSO inquiries, in 2008 almost 84% of enterprises having 50 or more persons engaged returned forms, while more than 71% of enterprises having 20 - 49 persons engaged did so, as did more than 18% of enterprises having less than 20 persons engaged. See *Table 1.6*.

Table 1.6 Percentage of enterprises surveyed, and percentage of enterprises responding, by employment size class

Size Class	% of enterprises surveyed				% of enterprises responding			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Less than 20 persons engaged	34.9	29.3	39.8	29.4	22.8	20.2	24.6	18.1
20 - 49 persons engaged	74.1	75.2	91.1	87.2	67.5	66.6	74.4	71.2
50 or more persons engaged	88.7	90.6	96.7	97.1	82.4	83.0	83.2	83.5
All employment groups	37.8	32.6	42.7	32.8	26.0	23.5	27.5	21.1

¹ Preliminary

Distribution of forms issued and forms received, by size of business

In 2008, almost 71% of enterprises having less than 20 persons engaged received no CSO forms. In contrast, more than 22% of enterprises having 50 or more persons engaged received twenty or more forms in that year. See *Table 1.7*.

In 2007, more than 75% of enterprises in the less than 20 persons engaged category returned no CSO forms, while more than 16% of businesses with 50 or more persons engaged returned twenty or more forms. See *Table 1.8*.

Table 1.7 Distribution of forms issued, by size of business

Year	% of population receiving n forms						Total
	0 forms	1 form	2-4 forms	5-9 forms	10-19 forms	20 or more forms	
2005							
Less than 20 persons engaged	65.1	27.2	4.6	0.4	2.3	0.3	100.0
20 - 49 persons engaged	25.9	16.8	18.2	16.1	14.4	8.7	100.0
50 or more persons engaged	11.3	13.5	13.5	18.2	26.2	17.4	100.0
ALL employment groups	62.2	26.5	5.3	1.5	3.4	1.1	100.0
2006							
Less than 20 persons engaged	70.7	22.1	3.9	0.6	2.4	0.3	100.0
20 - 49 persons engaged	24.8	18.1	10.8	22.1	12.4	11.7	100.0
50 or more persons engaged	9.4	14.3	10.1	20.2	26.7	19.3	100.0
ALL employment groups	67.4	21.7	4.3	1.9	3.4	1.2	100.0
2007							
Less than 20 persons engaged	60.2	31.8	4.7	0.6	2.4	0.4	100.0
20 - 49 persons engaged	8.9	25.5	18.5	22.7	11.6	12.8	100.0
50 or more persons engaged	3.3	17.3	14.6	21.6	23.0	20.2	100.0
ALL employment groups	57.3	31.3	5.3	1.7	3.1	1.2	100.0
2008							
Less than 20 persons engaged	70.6	20.2	5.6	0.9	2.3	0.4	100.0
20 - 49 persons engaged	12.8	17.9	21.1	24.2	12.2	11.7	100.0
50 or more persons engaged	2.9	9.7	16.8	23.3	24.8	22.5	100.0
ALL employment groups	67.2	19.9	6.4	2.2	3.2	1.2	100.0

Table 1.8 Distribution of forms returned, by size of business

Year	% of population returning n forms						
	0 forms	1 form	2-4 forms	5-9 forms	10-19 forms	20 or more forms	Total
2005							
Less than 20 persons engaged	77.2	16.8	3.2	0.3	2.1	0.3	100.0
20 - 49 persons engaged	32.5	19.5	20.2	7.6	13.5	6.8	100.0
50 or more persons engaged	18.3	14.5	17.3	11.0	24.1	14.8	100.0
ALL employment groups	74.0	16.8	4.2	0.9	3.1	0.9	100.0
2006							
Less than 20 persons engaged	79.8	14.2	3.0	0.4	2.2	0.3	100.0
20 - 49 persons engaged	33.4	18.6	16.6	10.4	12.9	8.1	100.0
50 or more persons engaged	17.6	14.2	15.2	12.4	24.5	16.1	100.0
ALL employment groups	76.5	14.4	3.8	1.1	3.1	1.0	100.0
2007							
Less than 20 persons engaged	75.4	18.7	3.0	0.3	2.2	0.3	100.0
20 - 49 persons engaged	25.6	27.2	16.4	10.1	12.2	8.5	100.0
50 or more persons engaged	17.8	18.4	15.3	11.5	20.7	16.2	100.0
ALL employment groups	72.6	19.0	3.7	0.9	2.9	0.9	100.0
2008							
Less than 20 persons engaged	:	:	:	:	:	:	100.0
20 - 49 persons engaged	:	:	:	:	:	:	100.0
50 or more persons engaged	:	:	:	:	:	:	100.0
ALL employment groups	:	:	:	:	:	:	100.0

: not available

Breakdown by survey

Table 1.9 shows, by survey, the percentage of each survey's target sector population which was surveyed by CSO inquiries, as well as the percentage of the survey target sector population which responded. Note that the target population for any survey is the number of enterprises contained in the economic sectors covered by that survey; this figure is usually less than the population figure for all economic sectors (the basis of the analyses presented in the earlier tables). It should also be noted that, while the Intrastat Survey is usually considered to be a single survey, it is treated as two distinct surveys, viz., Intrastat Imports and Intrastat Exports, for the purposes of this report because of the significant difference between the two in the amount of time required to complete the inquiry form. (Refer to *Chapter 2*.)

Due to increased use of administrative sources in 2008, the Business Register Inquiry surveyed 11% of businesses in its target sector that year, decreasing from almost 19% in the previous year. The Business Profile Inquiry was not conducted in 2008, but surveyed almost 5% of businesses in its target sectors in 2007. A number of new inquiries arose in the year 2008. Amongst these was the Business Expenditure on Research and Development Inquiry, which surveyed 1% of businesses in its target sectors; it should be noted that, while new to the CSO, this survey was previously conducted by Forfás.

In terms of response, almost 26% of businesses in the Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises) target sector returned an inquiry form in 2008. In this year, more than 20% of enterprises in the Prodcom Survey target sector returned a form, while almost 7% of enterprises in the Monthly Production Inquiry target sector did so. See *Table 1.9*.

Table 1.9 Percentage of target sector business population surveyed, and percentage of target sector business population responding, by survey

Survey	% of enterprises surveyed				% of enterprises responding			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Annual Surveys								
Annual Services Inquiry	10.6	12.2	11.5	10.6	7.1	7.6	7.9	7.3
Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises)	32.3	30.2	28.1	34.5	24.3	22.2	20.8	25.6
Census of Industrial Production (Local Units)	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.3
Census of Building & Construction	1.1	1.2	2.6	2.5	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.2
PRODCOM Inquiry	30.7	28.6	26.2	30.7	18.4	17.8	16.8	20.4
Business Profile Inquiry	8.1	:	4.6	:	4.3	:	2.5	:
Business Register Inquiry	11.4	12.8	18.9	11.0	7.8	9.2	11.4	8.1
National Employment Survey	:	4.0	4.1	3.9	:	1.8	1.6	1.9
e-Commerce Survey	2.5	2.6	3.2	2.8	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.3
Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey	:	:	:	0.2	:	:	:	:
Business Expenditure on Research and Development	:	:	:	1.0	:	:	:	0.6
Community Innovation Survey	:	:	2.6	:	:	:	1.1	:
Quarterly Surveys								
Balance of Payments inquiries (combined BoP10, BoP 30, BoP40, BoP42, BoP43, BoP 44, BoP45, BoP46, BoP50, CRS1) *	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
EHECS Survey	:	1.1	1.2	5.9	:	1.1	0.7	3.8
Qtrly. Accounts Inquiry to Services	12.8	11.5	10.5	10.6	9.3	8.7	6.4	6.7
Qtrly. Accounts Inquiry to Industry	12.5	12.5	11.3	9.6	7.8	8.0	6.6	5.8
Qtrly. Survey of Construction	6.4	4.1	5.3	6.0	4.0	3.1	3.8	4.3
Earnings & Hours Worked, Construction	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6
Services Producer Prices Inquiry	:	:	:	0.5	:	:	:	0.5
Monthly Surveys								
Monthly Production Inquiry	13.3	12.9	11.1	10.7	8.7	8.8	7.8	6.7
Retail Sales Inquiry	3.8	4.0	3.6	4.9	3.0	3.2	2.8	3.5
Index of Employment in Construction Survey	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.0
Wholesale Price Inquiry	3.8	3.9	3.6	4.1	3.8	3.9	3.6	4.1
Import Price Index Survey	:	:	:	0.1	:	:	:	0.1
Intrastat Imports Survey	3.9	3.1	2.9	2.7	3.9	3.1	2.9	2.7
Intrastat Exports Survey	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.7
All Surveys	37.8	32.6	42.7	32.8	26.0	23.5	27.5	21.1
¹ Preliminary								
: Not applicable								
* Includes Annual Surveys								

Chapter 2 - Time-based Analysis Of Business Enterprise Surveys

Introduction

Most CSO business surveys now include a question on their inquiry forms asking for the number of minutes taken by the respondent to fill in the form; for certain other surveys, notably Intrastat Imports and Intrastat Exports, estimates of the time taken to complete the form can be derived from administrative sources. Using such information, time-based analysis of the burden imposed by CSO inquiries is presented in the following tables.

Selected CSO inquiries - forms issued, forms returned, and time taken to complete

Table 2.1 presents details for those CSO surveys for which information is available on the time taken to complete the inquiry form. In 2008, these surveys combined issued a total of more than 349,400 inquiry forms, of which more than 256,600 completed forms were returned. The corresponding figures for 2007 were more than 341,800 forms issued and more than 258,600 forms returned. Note also that 2008 was the first year in which the Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey, the Business Expenditure on Research and Development Survey (formerly a Forfás survey), the Import Price Index Survey and the Services Producer Prices Inquiry were conducted by the CSO.

The number of hours to complete all returns for the twenty-three surveys was almost 250,900 in 2008 and almost 270,200 in 2007; this reflects the lower sampling proportions pertaining in 2008. (Refer also to *Table 1.1*, *Table 1.5*, and *Table 1.9*.) The average number of minutes taken to complete a single return out of all the surveys was almost 59 minutes in 2008, compared to almost 63 minutes in the previous year. The survey taking the longest amount of time to complete was the National Employment Survey, at almost 156 minutes in 2008. The time taken to complete the same survey was more than 229 minutes in 2007; this year-on-year drop arises due to a decrease in the number of questions on the inquiry form.

The average number of minutes taken to complete all returns per unit of enterprise population was almost 55 minutes in 2008 and almost 60 minutes in 2007. This figure is obtained when the number of hours taken to complete the returns is divided by the population of business enterprises. See *Table 2.1*

Table 2.1 Selected CSO inquiries* - forms issued, forms returned, and time taken to complete

	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Total number of forms issued	282,783	310,082	341,804	349,446
Total number of forms returned	229,729	247,845	258,649	256,615
Total number of hours to complete returns[#]	231,797.7	258,162.9	270,170.5	250,854.7
Average number of minutes to complete a return	60.5	62.5	62.7	58.7
of which				
Annual Services Inquiry	50.2	59.3	62.3	64.2
Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises)	102.8	105.2	117.9	115.2
Census of Industrial Production (Local Units)	88.4	90.3	89.2	86.6
Census of Building and Construction	117.4	115.0	114.3	111.9
PRODCOM Survey	24.0	23.9	23.7	24.4
Business Register Inquiry	15.4	15.4	15.4	5.9
National Employment Survey	:	172.3	229.3	155.7
e-Commerce and ICT Survey	15.4	15.6	16.4	16.9
Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey	:	:	:	18.3
Business Expenditure on Research and Development	:	:	:	15.0
Community Innovation Survey	:	:	18.0	:
EHECS Survey	:	47.0	49.4	44.5
Quarterly Accounts Inquiry to Services	23.4	23.4	23.2	23.7
Quarterly Accounts Inquiry to Industry	21.7	22.1	22.0	22.5
Earnings & Hours Worked in Construction	20.7	20.5	20.6	19.5
Services Producer Prices Inquiry	:	:	:	12.1
Monthly Production Inquiry	17.0	17.0	17.1	17.2
Retail Sales Inquiry	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
Index of Employment in Construction Survey	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1
Wholesale Price Inquiry	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Import Price Index Survey	:	:	:	11.8
Intrastat Imports Survey	123.6	123.5	123.1	121.8
Intrastat Exports Survey	42.3	43.0	43.0	43.1
Average number of minutes taken to complete these CSO returns per unit of enterprise population	56.6	61.6	59.5	54.5
* Excludes the Business Profile Inquiry, the Quarterly Survey of Construction, and the Balance of Payments inquiries, which currently do not collect information on minutes taken to complete the inquiry form.				
[#] Note that this is an indicator used by Eurostat for measuring response burden				
¹ Preliminary				
: Not Applicable				

Selected CSO inquiries – breakdown by economic sector

The following table shows the number of minutes to complete returns for the twenty-three surveys (listed in *Table 2.1*) per unit of enterprise population, expressed as absolute values and as indices (Base 2005=100). For the Manufacturing sector in 2008, this figure was almost 255 minutes. This

figure represents the total number of minutes taken in the Manufacturing sector to complete returns for the twenty-three surveys combined, divided by the population of business enterprises in the Manufacturing sector. The 2008 figure is a decrease on the 2007 figure (more than 297 minutes per unit of business population) and reflects lower sampling in 2008 by a number of surveys covering the Manufacturing sector. (Refer to *Table 1.5.*)

Overall, the time taken to complete returns per unit of business population was almost 55 minutes in 2008. This figure is derived when the total number of minutes taken to complete returns for the twenty-three surveys combined across all economic sectors is divided by the population of business enterprises across all sectors. The corresponding figure for 2007 was almost 60 minutes. See *Table 2.2*

Table 2.2 Selected CSO inquiries - number of minutes to complete returns* per unit of enterprise population (Base 2005=100), by NACE sector

Sector	No. of minutes				No. of minutes, as index			
	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
C Mining and Quarrying	150.1	179.0	181.1	192.0	100.0	119.3	120.7	127.9
D Manufacturing	284.0	310.7	297.2	254.6	100.0	109.4	104.6	89.6
E Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	90.1	112.0	98.3	69.4	100.0	124.3	109.1	77.0
F Construction	11.6	12.4	22.3	12.8	100.0	106.9	192.2	110.3
G Wholesale and Retail Trade etc.	146.6	163.6	115.1	143.9	100.0	111.6	78.5	98.2
H Hotels and Restaurants	13.8	19.2	20.9	21.0	100.0	139.1	151.4	152.2
I Transport, Storage and Communication	15.8	20.9	18.9	19.5	100.0	132.3	119.6	123.4
J Financial Intermediation	18.3	46.5	76.4	33.9	100.0	254.1	417.5	185.2
K Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	15.9	18.8	18.6	15.7	100.0	118.2	117.0	98.7
L Public Administration and Defence etc.	147.8	256.9	253.6	188.8	100.0	173.8	171.6	127.7
M Education	6.8	14.5	19.5	10.2	100.0	213.2	286.8	150.0
N Health and Social Work	8.0	17.3	20.9	11.8	100.0	216.3	261.3	147.5
O Other Community, Social and Personal Services	12.5	16.0	70.9	14.3	100.0	128.0	567.2	114.4
All Sectors	56.6	61.6	59.5	54.5	100.0	108.8	105.1	96.3

* Excludes the Business Profile Inquiry, the Quarterly Survey of Construction, and the Balance of Payments inquiries, which currently do not collect information on minutes taken to complete the inquiry form.

¹ Preliminary

Chapter 3 – Farm Surveys

Introduction

The CSO conducts three farm inquiries, viz., the June Agriculture Survey, the December Agriculture Survey, and the Pig Survey. Details of these inquiries in years 2005 through to 2008 are presented in the following tables. For all tables, figures for the number of forms issued are final for all years, as are figures for the number of returns for years 2005 through to 2007; figures for the number of returns for 2008 are preliminary.

Forms issued and forms returned

Of the three farm inquiries, the June Agriculture Survey and the December Agriculture Survey are conducted annually, while the Pig Survey takes place bi-annually. In 2008, these 3 surveys combined issued almost 44,600 inquiry forms to farms. Of these, more than 37,700 forms were returned, giving a response rate of almost 85%. The higher figures for forms issued in 2005 and 2007, almost 115,900 and nearly 108,000, respectively, reflect the fact that, in these two years, there was increased sampling by the June Agriculture Survey to satisfy EU legislative requirements for farm structural information. The 2006-2008 decrease in the number of forms issued (from 60,900 down to 44,600) is a result of the increasing use of administrative data relating to farms.

The average number of forms received by a farm in 2008 was 0.3. This figure is obtained when the total number of forms issued in 2008 is divided by the population of farms. Similarly, the average number of forms returned by a farm in 2008 was 0.3. See *Table 3.1*.

Table 3.1 Farm Surveys - forms issued and forms returned, 2005 - 2008

	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Total number of farm surveys	3	3	3	3
Total number of forms issued	115,875	60,929	107,987	44,558
Total number of forms returned	74,846	42,253	77,365	37,716
Response Rate (%)	64.6	69.3	71.6	84.6
Average number of forms received by a farm	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.3
Average number of forms returned by a farm	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3

¹ Preliminary

Breakdown by farm size

Table 3.2 shows the number of farms which received at least one CSO inquiry form, and the number of farms which returned at least one CSO form, broken down by farm size, for years 2005 through to 2008.

In 2008, almost 36,400 farms received at least one inquiry form, of which almost 10,100 farms were received by farms having less than 20 hectares. In the same year, almost 31,100 farms returned at least one inquiry form, of which more than 8,800 farms were returned by the less than 20 hectares subgroup. Higher figures for 2005 and 2007 reflect increased sampling by the June Agriculture Survey in these years. See *Table 3.2*.

Table 3.2 Farm surveys - number of farms surveyed, and number of farms responding, by farm size

Farm Size	Number of farms surveyed				Number of farms responding			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Less than 20 hectares	40,489	17,825	31,971	10,094	28,755	13,434	25,684	8,801
20 - <50 hectares	45,599	24,899	35,983	14,722	28,904	17,552	27,160	12,686
50 or more hectares	22,904	16,630	22,432	11,563	12,517	10,237	13,308	9,574
All Farms	108,992	59,354	90,386	36,379	70,176	41,223	66,152	31,061

¹ Preliminary

Selected farm surveys - forms issued, forms returned, and time taken to complete

The June Agriculture Survey and the December Agriculture Survey both include a question on their inquiry forms asking for the number of minutes taken by the respondent to fill in the form. (The Pig Survey inquiry form currently does not include such a question.) Analysis on the time taken to complete these two surveys is presented in the table below.

In 2008, the June Agriculture Survey and the December Agriculture Survey combined issued a total of more than 43,800 inquiry forms, while in 2007 the corresponding figure was more than 107,200, due to the larger sample for the June Agriculture Survey in that year. Of the forms issued in 2008, almost 37,100 were completed and returned.

The total time taken to complete all returns for the two surveys combined was more than 14,900 hours in 2008, compared with more than 34,400 hours in 2007. The average time taken to complete a single return out of the two surveys was over 24 minutes in 2008 and 27 minutes in the previous year. It takes longer to complete the June Agriculture Survey than the December Agriculture Survey, reflecting the longer inquiry form of the former survey; in 2008, the June Agriculture Survey took almost 30 minutes on average to complete, while the December Agriculture Survey took over 18 minutes.

The average number of minutes taken to complete all returns (for these two surveys) per unit of farm population was 7 minutes in 2008 and over 16 minutes in 2007. This figure is obtained when

the number of hours taken to complete all returns is divided by the population of farms, and again reflects higher sampling by the June Agriculture Survey in 2007. See *Table 3.3*.

Table 3.3 Selected farm surveys* - forms issued, forms returned, and time taken to complete

	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Total number of forms issued	115,167	60,083	107,221	43,848
Total number of forms returned	74,202	41,483	76,675	37,084
Total number of hours to complete returns	35,668.3	15,839.7	34,448.1	14,930.8
Average number of minutes to complete a return <i>of which</i>	28.8	22.9	27.0	24.2
June Agriculture Survey	33.3	28.5	30.4	29.8
December Agriculture Survey	18.1	18.2	18.2	18.2
Average number of minutes to complete these returns per unit of farm population	16.1	7.2	16.1	7.0
¹ Preliminary				
* Excludes the Pig Survey, which currently does not collect information on minutes taken to complete the inquiry form.				

Chapter 4 – The Road Freight Transport Survey

Introduction

The Road Freight Transport Survey (RFS), also known as the National Survey of Transport of Goods by Road, is an annual survey of licensed goods vehicles having an unladen weight of two tonnes or more. The survey is directed to vehicle licensees, rather than to haulage business enterprises. It does not use the CSO's Central Business Register as a sampling frame—the sampling frame employed is a register of licensed vehicles provided by the Department of Transport—and thus is treated separately in this report from business enterprise surveys, dealt with in Chapter 1 and Chapter 2.

Although there is no register of haulage business enterprises for the RFS, it has been possible, by matching the names of vehicle licensees, to derive estimates of haulage business population (i.e., number of fleets of licensed goods vehicles of unladen weight of two tonnes or more) for the year 2008. These estimates underpin some of the 2008 statistics presented in the following tables. As noted for earlier chapters of this report, all figures in the tables are final, except those relating to the number of returns for 2008, which are preliminary.

Forms issued and forms returned

In 2008, almost 30,400 RFS inquiry forms were issued, down from a figure of more than 34,300 in the previous year. More than 15,100 forms were completed and returned in 2008, giving a response rate of almost 50%. The average number of RFS forms received per haulage business (fleet) in 2008 was 0.4, obtained by dividing the total number of forms issued by the population of haulage businesses. The average number of forms returned by a haulage business in 2008 was 0.2. In 2008, more than 22% of all licensed goods vehicles of unladen weight of two tonnes or more were surveyed in the RFS, while forms were returned in respect of more than 11% of all licensed goods vehicles of unladen weight of two tonnes or more. See *Table 4.1*.

Table 4.1 Road Freight Transport Survey - forms issued and forms returned

	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Total number of Road Freight Transport Survey forms issued	26,564	28,768	34,323	30,359
Total number of Road Freight Transport Survey forms returned	11,950	13,588	15,925	15,143
Response Rate (%)	45.0	47.2	46.4	49.9
Average number of forms received by a haulage business	:	:	:	0.4
Average number of forms returned by a haulage business	:	:	:	0.2
Percentage of goods vehicle population surveyed	28	27.2	28.2	22.5
Percentage of goods vehicle population responding	12.6	12.8	13.1	11.2
¹ Preliminary				
: Not available				

Breakdown by size of haulage business

Table 4.2 shows the percentage of haulage businesses which received at least one RFS inquiry form in 2008, and the percentage of haulage businesses which returned at least one RFS form in that year, broken down by size of business.

In 2008, over 26% of haulage businesses were surveyed in the RFS. Almost 20% of all haulage businesses having a single lorry were surveyed. In that year, more than 14% of all haulage businesses completed and returned at least one RFS inquiry form. See *Table 4.2*.

Table 4.2 Road Freight Transport Survey - percentage of haulage businesses surveyed, and percentage of haulage businesses responding, by size of business, 2008¹

BusinessSize	% of businesses surveyed	% of businesses responding
1 lorry	19.7	10.1
2 - 4 lorries	39.3	21.9
5 or more lorries	83.1	50.9
All Businesses	26.4	14.3
¹ Preliminary		

Forms issued, forms returned, and time taken to complete

As with most other CSO business inquiries, the Road Freight Transport Survey includes a question on the inquiry form asking for the number of minutes taken by the respondent to fill in the form. The following table presents analysis of the time taken to complete the inquiry form.

The total time taken to complete all the RFS inquiry forms returned in 2008 was almost 4,700 hours, compared with a corresponding figure of more than 4,900 hours in 2007; this reflects the

lower sample size in 2008. The average time taken to complete a single RFS return was 18.5 minutes in 2008.

The average amount of time taken to complete all RFS returns per unit of haulage business population was almost 4 minutes in 2008. This figure is obtained when the number of hours taken to complete all returns is divided by the population of haulage business enterprises. The average number of minutes to complete all RFS returns per unit of goods vehicle population in 2008 was 2.1. See *Table 4.3*.

Table 4.3 Road Freight Transport Survey - time taken to complete

	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Total number of hours to complete returns	3,684.6	4,189.6	4,910.2	4,672.5
Average number of minutes to complete a single return	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5
Average number of minutes to complete these returns per unit of haulage business population	:	:	:	3.7
Average number of minutes to complete these returns per unit of goods vehicle population	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.1
¹ Preliminary				
: Not available				

Background Notes

Introduction

This report covers the thirty-one surveys conducted by the CSO to business enterprises in Ireland, as well as the three CSO farm surveys and the Road Freight Transport Survey (which is not an enterprise survey). The complete list of surveys, and the target NACE Rev. 1.1 section of each, is shown in Table 1 below. Table 2 presents a description, at section level, of the NACE Rev. 1.1 economic activity classification.

The report relates to surveys which were issued (in the field) in years 2005 through 2008. Note that the year of issue may differ from the reference year for some surveys, e.g., the Annual Services Inquiry 2007 was issued in year 2008. Note also that figures in the tables relating to the number of forms issued by the CSO (or forms received by businesses) do not include reminder notices.

Table 1 CSO surveys, by target NACE Rev. 1.1 section

Survey	NACE Rev. 1.1 target sections
Annual Services Inquiry	G,H,I,J,K,O
Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises)	C,D,E
Census of Industrial Production (Local Units)	C,D,E
Census of Building & Construction	F
PRODCOM Inquiry	C,D,E
Business Profile Inquiry	C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q
Business Register Inquiry	C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q
National Employment Survey	C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O
e-Commerce Survey	D,F,G,H,I,J,K,O
Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey	C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,M,N,O
Business Expenditure on Research and Development Inquiry	C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O
Community Innovation Survey	C,D,E,G,I,J,K
Balance of Payments inquiries (combined BoP10, BoP30, BoP40, BoP42, BoP43, BoP44, BoP45, BoP46, BoP50, CRS1)	C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,N,O
EHECS Survey	C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O
Qtrly. Accounts (Services) Inquiry	G,H,I,J,K
Qtrly. Accounts Inquiry to Industry	C,D,E
Qtrly. Survey of Construction	F
Earnings & Hours Worked, Construction	F
Services Producer Prices Inquiry	I,K
Monthly Production Inquiry	C,D,E
Retail Sales Inquiry	G
Index of Employment in Construction Survey	F
Wholesale Price Inquiry	C,D,E
Import Price Index Survey	D,G,I,K
Intrastat Imports Survey	C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O
Intrastat Exports Survey	C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O
Agriculture June Survey	A
Agriculture December Survey	A
Pig Survey	A
Road Freight Transport Survey	not applicable

Table 2 NACE Rev. 1.1 classification, section level

Section	Description
A	Agriculture, Hunting, etc.
B	Fishing
C	Mining and Quarrying
D	Manufacturing
E	Electricity, Gas and Water Supply
F	Construction
G	Wholesale and Retail Trade etc.
H	Hotels and Restaurants
I	Transport, Storage and Communication
J	Financial Intermediation
K	Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities
L	Public Administration and Defence etc.
M	Education
N	Health and Social Work
O	Other Community, Social and Personal Services
P	Private Households with Employed Persons
Q	Extra-territorial Organizations and Bodies

Business enterprise surveys

To produce this report, samples and responses, at enterprise level, for all thirty-one enterprise surveys were collected for each year. For year 2008, actual responses were not available for eight of the surveys; for these, responses were estimated, by survey, using corresponding response/sample ratios from 2007. In addition, information was obtained on the time taken to complete the inquiry forms; this information came either directly from the survey responses (from a question asking the respondent to estimate the number of minutes taken to complete the inquiry form) or, in the case of Intrastat Imports and Intrastat Exports, from administrative sources. Time information was not available for the Business Profile Inquiry, the Quarterly Survey of Construction, and the Balance of Payments inquiries.

The CSO's Business Register provided the register of enterprises for this analysis. This was used to derive figures on enterprise populations, by NACE Rev. 1.1 section. The register also contains information for each enterprise on the number of persons engaged. Persons engaged are all persons who work, either full-time or part-time, in an enterprise, including proprietors, partners, directors, and family members who work in the enterprise.

Figures in this report relating to percentages of enterprise population may differ from corresponding figures shown in survey-specific publications. There are a number of reasons as to why this might be so. Firstly, the population figures in this report cover all enterprises which were alive *at any time* during the relevant year, i.e., these figures are not point-in-time populations; for a report such as this, covering a great number of widely diverse surveys issued at different points throughout the year, point-in-time population figures are not appropriate. Secondly, although the Business Register is the standard business register in use in the CSO, for practical reasons,

various CSO surveys (e.g., the Annual Services Inquiry) maintain local versions of the Business Register, these versions being adapted to more closely represent the target sectors relevant to the survey in question. Finally, the target sector populations underlying this report relate to all live enterprises (including those with zero persons engaged) in the target sector in question, whereas figures in survey-specific publications may be based on population figures above a certain employment size threshold or exclude certain sub-sectors within the NACE Rev. 1.1 section.

In relation to figures for the number of minutes to complete a single return and the number of minutes to complete all returns per unit of enterprise population, there may also be slight differences here from figures shown in the survey-specific publications. The main reason for this is that, in this report, the Winsorized Mean (restricting to 95% of respondents, thus eliminating outliers at both ends of the spectrum) was used, whereas different approaches have been adopted elsewhere. There is also a small effect due to the fact that the minutes figures here include all enterprises responding to a survey, whereas figures in survey-specific publications are restricted to responding enterprises in the particular survey's target economic sectors.

For NACE codes, the Business Register was taken to be the primary source. In a small number of cases, where neither a Business Register NACE code nor a survey area NACE code was available for an enterprise, a NACE code was ascribed to the enterprise based on a frequency analysis of those enterprises for which the NACE code was known. In the case of persons engaged, the Business Register figure again took precedence, the survey area figure being used (where available) in cases where there was no Business Register figure. If no persons engaged figure was available from either the Business Register or the survey area, no figure was imputed, but the enterprise was ascribed to the employment group less than 20 persons engaged.

As the analysis covered a large number of surveys, many of which maintained local registers, in a small number of cases it was not possible to match survey enterprises with the Business Register (e.g., in the case of the Balance of Payments surveys). In such cases, the enterprises were simply added to the register as new units.

Farm surveys

As for the business enterprise surveys, samples and responses, at farm level, for the three farm surveys were collected for each year. For year 2008, a complete set of responses was not available for the Agriculture December Survey; however, as the processing of this survey was very close to completion at the time of preparation of this report, rather than scale up the returns by a marginal amount, the actual returns (and response rate) were left unaltered. Information on the time taken to complete the Agriculture June Survey and the Agriculture December Survey was available from the respective inquiry forms; time information was not available for the Pig Survey.

Agricultural register information was available only at the highest level (i.e., not at the farm size level); for this reason, the structures of Table 5.2 and Appendix 6 differ from those shown in respect of business enterprises.

The Road Freight Transport Survey

The Road Freight Transport Survey (RFS), also known as the National Survey of Transport of Goods by Road, is not an enterprise survey, and so has been treated separately in this report from the business enterprise surveys.

Although there is no formal register of haulage business enterprises available, it has been possible, by matching the names of vehicle licensees, to approximate a register of haulage businesses for the year 2008. This enabled the collection of samples, responses, and information on time taken to complete forms, at haulage business level, for this year. No such business population estimates have been possible in respect of previous years; however, information relating to vehicle populations is presented for these years.

Response figures for 2008 are preliminary.

Electronic returns

Note that, while the great majority of CSO inquiry forms are returned in paper format, there is a facility for respondents of certain surveys to return data by filling in, via a secure website, an electronic version of the inquiry form. In 2008, this facility was available for four business enterprise surveys, and it will be extended to other surveys in future.

In addition, for the EHECS Survey, enterprises may avail of the functionality within their payroll software to automatically produce electronic reports, in XML format, for transmission to the CSO.

Table 3 below shows the take-up of electronic reporting for the above surveys in 2008.

Table 3 Electronic reporting take-up, as percentage of all responses, 2008

Survey	% of all responses
Business Register Inquiry	3
e-Commerce and ICT Survey	16
Community Innovation Survey ¹	8
EHECS	15
Retail Sales Inquiry	3

¹ Figures relate to 2007

Appendices

Appendix 1 Annual Services Inquiry - target sector enterprises surveyed, enterprises responding, number of minutes per return, and number of minutes for all returns per unit of enterprise population, by NACE Rev. 1.1 sector

Sector	% of enterprise population surveyed				% of enterprise population responding				No. of minutes for a single return				No. of minutes for all returns, per unit of enterprise population			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
G Wholesale and Retail Trade etc.	13.0	14.9	14.5	13.7	8.6	9.3	10.0	9.4	49.6	59.1	62.3	64.4	4.3	5.5	6.2	6.2
H Hotels and Restaurants	15.4	16.6	15.3	16.0	10.1	10.7	10.7	11.2	53.6	64.1	69.1	69.7	5.4	6.9	7.4	7.8
I Transport, Storage and Communication	9.8	12.2	11.0	9.9	6.7	7.0	7.1	6.4	51.0	59.1	61.9	64.1	3.4	4.1	4.4	4.2
J Financial Intermediation	7.6	8.5	8.0	9.6	5.5	5.5	6.2	7.4	54.7	68.1	68.9	69.1	3.0	3.7	4.3	5.1
K Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	7.8	9.5	9.1	7.7	5.1	5.8	6.1	5.1	48.6	56.5	58.8	61.1	2.5	3.3	3.6	3.2
O Other Community, Social and Personal Services	8.2	9.3	8.6	7.9	5.9	6.3	6.5	5.9	48.1	57.5	59.9	60.9	2.8	3.6	3.9	3.6
All Sectors	10.6	12.2	11.5	10.6	7.1	7.6	7.9	7.3	50.2	59.3	62.3	64.2	3.6	4.5	4.9	4.8

¹ Preliminary

Appendix 2 Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises) - target sector enterprises surveyed, enterprises responding, number of minutes per return, and number of minutes for all returns per unit of enterprise population, by NACE Rev. 1.1 sector

Sector	% of enterprise population surveyed				% of enterprise population responding				No. of minutes for a single return				No. of minutes for all returns, per unit of enterprise population			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
C Mining and Quarrying	20.6	20.3	22.7	39.5	12.6	11.3	14.2	24.7	104.0	110.3	121.9	115.6	13.1	12.4	17.3	28.5
D Manufacturing	32.7	30.6	28.3	34.5	24.8	22.6	21.3	25.9	102.9	105.3	117.8	115.2	25.5	23.8	25.1	29.5
E Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	29.3	25.0	27.9	31.6	15.8	18.0	5.3	5.8	91.1	92.3	123.5	118.0	14.4	16.6	6.5	7.6
All Sectors	32.3	30.2	28.1	34.5	24.3	22.2	20.8	25.6	102.8	105.2	117.9	115.2	25.0	23.3	24.6	29.0

¹ Preliminary

Appendix 3 PRODCOM Survey - target sector enterprises surveyed, enterprises responding, number of minutes per return, and number of minutes for all returns per unit of enterprise population, by NACE Rev. 1.1 sector

Sector	% of enterprise population surveyed				% of enterprise population responding				No. of minutes for a single return				No. of minutes for all returns, per unit of enterprise population			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
C Mining and Quarrying	18.4	17.1	19.1	34.5	9.1	7.1	10.3	20.9	24.3	23.7	23.4	24.1	2.3	1.7	2.4	5.0
D Manufacturing	31.1	28.9	26.5	30.8	18.8	18.2	17.0	20.6	24.0	23.9	23.7	24.4	4.5	4.4	4.1	5.0
E Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	33.0	28.9	23.1	24.2	11.6	18.0	13.0	14.4	22.6	22.1	22.3	23.6	2.6	4.1	2.9	3.5
All Sectors	30.7	28.6	26.2	30.7	18.4	17.8	16.8	20.4	24.0	23.9	23.7	24.4	4.4	4.3	4.0	5.0

¹ Preliminary

Appendix 4 National Employment Survey - target sector enterprises surveyed, enterprises responding, number of minutes per return, number of minutes for all returns per unit of enterprise population, by NACE Rev. 1.1 sector

Sector	% of enterprise population surveyed			% of enterprise population responding			Number of minutes for a single return			Number of minutes for all returns, per unit of enterprise population		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008 ¹
	C Mining and Quarrying	21.3	11.8	12.6	9.0	6.1	6.8	150.3	252.4	249.2	13.5	15.4
D Manufacturing	12.2	8.6	6.6	5.7	4.1	3.6	219.6	312.7	241.1	12.5	12.8	8.7
E Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	12.7	6.5	7.4	2.2	2.4	2.1	138.4	251.0	208.8	3.0	6.1	4.5
F Construction	1.8	2.6	3.0	0.6	0.9	1.2	144.8	176.4	117.0	0.8	1.6	1.4
G Wholesale and Retail Trade etc.	3.7	4.8	5.0	1.9	1.9	2.3	145.7	183.5	125.6	2.7	3.5	2.9
H Hotels and Restaurants	5.7	6.5	6.3	2.0	1.8	2.3	173.1	239.4	150.0	3.4	4.4	3.4
I Transport, Storage and Communication	7.1	3.4	3.5	3.0	1.2	1.4	147.7	225.7	157.5	4.5	2.6	2.3
J Financial Intermediation	10.8	7.4	5.7	6.1	3.8	3.7	198.2	272.0	217.7	12.1	10.4	8.1
K Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	2.4	2.9	2.5	1.2	1.0	1.3	153.8	213.3	134.7	1.9	2.2	1.8
L Public Administration and Defence etc.	47.3	33.2	30.1	38.7	24.0	26.0	300.5	507.1	319.4	116.2	121.6	83.1
M Education	5.7	3.4	4.3	3.4	2.1	2.5	228.2	332.7	226.2	7.8	7.0	5.7
N Health and Social Work	9.9	5.3	4.7	5.1	3.4	3.4	170.9	247.8	199.4	8.8	8.4	6.7
O Other Community, Social and Personal Services	4.0	4.4	3.7	1.5	1.6	1.6	150.8	193.0	138.6	2.2	3.1	2.3
All Sectors	4.0	4.1	3.9	1.8	1.6	1.9	172.3	229.3	155.7	3.1	3.7	2.9

¹ Preliminary

Appendix 5 e-Commerce and ICT Survey - target sector enterprises surveyed, enterprises responding, number of minutes per return, and number of minutes for all returns per unit of enterprise population, by NACE Rev. 1.1 sector

Sector	% of enterprise population surveyed				% of enterprise population responding				No. of minutes for a single return				No. of minutes for all returns, per unit of enterprise population			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
D Manufacturing	17.6	17.1	18.4	19.0	9.4	10.3	9.8	9.8	15.3	15.2	16.4	16.8	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6
F Construction	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	15.6	15.7	16.0	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
G Wholesale and Retail Trade etc.	2.6	3.3	4.1	3.6	1.3	1.8	2.1	1.7	15.4	15.8	16.5	17.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
H Hotels and Restaurants	1.8	2.4	2.5	2.1	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.8	16.2	16.2	17.1	16.9	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
I Transport, Storage and Communication	2.3	2.4	3.0	2.3	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.1	15.4	15.9	16.6	17.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
J Financial Intermediation	4.8	7.0	5.0	5.9	3.2	4.5	2.6	2.6	15.6	15.8	16.4	16.9	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.4
K Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	1.6	1.5	2.0	1.4	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.7	15.4	15.9	16.3	17.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
O Other Community, Social and Personal Services	1.3	1.5	2.2	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.2	0.6	15.4	15.9	16.4	17.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
All Sectors	2.5	2.6	3.2	2.8	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.3	15.4	15.6	16.4	16.9	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2

¹ Preliminary

Appendix 6 Agriculture June Survey - farms surveyed, farms responding, number of minutes per return, and total time taken for all returns, by farm size

Farm Size	Number of farms surveyed				Number of farms responding				Number of minutes for a single return				Total hours for all returns			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2005	2006	2007	2008 ¹
Less than 20 hectares	31,013	8,336	25,472	3,993	21,686	6,083	20,450	3,585	30.5	25.8	27.7	26.3	11,032.5	2,612.5	9,433.3	1,570.4
20 - <50 hectares	34,785	12,593	29,370	8,313	21,136	8,152	22,136	7,102	34.8	29.4	31.5	30.1	12,275.8	4,000.2	11,639.7	3,557.4
50 or more hectares	19,388	9,107	22,111	10,193	9,618	4,737	12,645	8,416	36.0	30.5	32.6	31.1	5,778.6	2,404.9	6,874.1	4,357.6
All Farms	85,186	30,036	76,953	22,499	52,440	18,972	55,231	19,103	33.3	28.5	30.4	29.8	29,086.9	9,017.6	27,947.0	9,485.4

¹ Preliminary

