

Appendix 2

Definitions

Labour Force

The results of the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) provide the basis for the official series of quarterly labour force estimates. The labour force and its constituent figures shown in this report are directly based on the census. Users should be aware that information derived from identical questions in the census and QNHS for the same year may show appreciable differences. The main categories affected are the constituents of the question on principal economic status and the employment estimates classified by industry and occupation. The main reasons for the differences are:

- the census form is completed by a responsible adult in each household throughout the State in respect of everyone present in the household on census night while the QNHS is by face to face interview
- the census relates to all persons present in the State (including visitors from abroad) at the time of the census while the QNHS covers persons usually resident in Ireland
- the census is a complete enumeration while the QNHS is a sample survey
- the QNHS has a much wider range of questions on the labour force which may have a bearing on the responses received to individual questions.

Industry

As in the 2002 Census, the 2006 Census continues to code industry using NACE – the General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities. NACE Rev. 1 is a 4-digit activity classification that was drawn up in 1990 and is a revision of the version originally published by Eurostat in 1970.

NACE is a hierarchical classification, with 60 2-digit codes, 222 codes at 3-digit level and 503 at 4-digit level. The most detailed level of industry distinguished in the present report is given in Appendix 3 while the intermediate level of industrial groups is given in Appendix 4.

The industry in which a person is engaged is determined (whatever the occupation) by the main economic activity carried out in the local unit in which he or she works. If, however, the local unit provides an ancillary service to another unit in the business (e.g. administration, storage, etc.) then the persons in the ancillary unit are classified to the industry of the unit it services. Thus, while the occupational classification is concerned only with the particular work performed by an individual regardless of the activity carried on at the local unit, the industrial classification is concerned only with the ultimate purpose of the unit or end product regardless of the precise nature of the work performed by each individual.

A manufacturing or commercial unit may employ persons with many different occupations for the purpose of making a particular product or for giving a particular service. Conversely, there are cases in which particular occupations are largely confined to a single industry. For example, the majority of persons with agricultural occupations are in the agriculture industry and most miners are in the mining industry.

The term *industry* used for Census of Population purposes is not confined to manufacturing industry. It is synonymous with the term “sector of economic activity”. The basis of the industrial classification is, in the case of employees, the business or profession of their employer and in the case of self-employed persons, the nature of their own business or profession.

Appendix 2 (contd.)

Occupation

The Occupation classification (set out in Appendix 6) used in the census, is based on the UK Standard Occupational Classification⁵, with modifications to reflect Irish labour market conditions. The classification was first used in the 1996 Census. This classification adheres to the international occupation classification ISCO Com (88) and provides a link to ISCO Com (88). The hierarchical structure provided within this classification is suited to accurate automatic coding.

The code to which a person's occupation is classified is determined by the kind of work he or she performs in earning a living, irrespective of the place in which, or the purpose for which, it is performed. The nature of the industry, business or service in which the person is working has no bearing upon the classification of the occupation. For example, the occupation "clerk" covers clerks employed in manufacturing industries, commerce, banking, insurance, public administration, professions and other services, etc.

The intermediate level of occupational groups is given in Appendix 5 while the most detailed level of occupations for which information from the 2006 Census is published is given in Appendix 6.

Socio-economic Group

The entire population was classified to one of ten specific socio-economic groups (introduced in 1996). In addition a residual group entitled. "All others gainfully occupied and unknown" was used where sufficient details were not provided. The classification aims to bring together persons with similar social and economic statuses on the basis of the level of skill or educational attainment required. In defining socio-economic group no attempt is made to rank groups in order of socio-economic importance.

The socio-economic group of persons aged 15 years or over who are at work is determined by their occupation and employment status. Unemployed or retired persons aged 15 years or over are classified according to their former occupation and employment status. The detailed classification used for determining the socio-economic group of all persons at work, unemployed or retired is given in Appendix 7.

Persons looking after the home/family or at school/college, who are members of a family unit, were classified to the socio-economic group of another person in the family unit using a priority table based on the relationships within the family. Thus, if the reference person⁶ of a family was at work, unemployed or retired, other persons were assigned to his/her socio-economic group. If the reference person was neither at work, unemployed nor retired (e.g. never worked, permanently disabled, etc.), they were assigned to the socio-economic group of the other parent, spouse or cohabiting partner in the family unit. If there was no such spouse or partner or if the spouse, in turn, was neither at work, unemployed or retired, they were assigned to the socio-economic group of a working son/daughter. If there were no persons in the family unit with a socio-economic group then they were assigned to the **unknown** socio-economic group. Other persons looking after the home/family or at school/college who were not members of a family unit, such as relatives of the reference person (e.g. widowed grandparents, etc.) were assigned a socio-economic group using the above method. Unrelated persons or persons living alone who are looking after the home/family or at school/college were assigned to the **unknown** group.

The socio-economic groups used in the census are as follows:

- A Employers and managers
- B Higher professional
- C Lower professional
- D Non-manual
- E Manual skilled
- F Semi-skilled
- G Unskilled
- H Own account workers
- I Farmers
- J Agricultural workers
- Z All others gainfully occupied and unknown

⁵ Standard Occupational Classification, Second edition, HMSO, London, 1995.

⁶ The reference person in each private household is the first person identified as a parent, spouse or cohabiting partner in the first family in the household. Where no person in the household satisfies these criteria, the first usually resident person is used as the reference person.

Appendix 2 (contd.)

Social Class

The entire population is also classified into one of the following social class groups (introduced in 1996) which are defined on the basis of occupation:

- 1 Professional workers
- 2 Managerial and technical
- 3 Non-manual
- 4 Skilled manual
- 5 Semi-skilled
- 6 Unskilled
- 7 All others gainfully occupied and unknown

The occupations included in each of these groups have been selected in such a way as to bring together, as far as possible, people with similar levels of occupational skill. In determining social class no account is taken of the differences between individuals on the basis of other characteristics such as education. Accordingly social class ranks occupations by the level of skill required on a social class scale ranging from 1 (highest) to 7 (lowest). This scale combines occupations into six groups by occupation and employment status following procedures similar to those outlined above for the allocation of socio-economic group. A residual category "All others gainfully occupied and unknown" is used where no precise allocation is possible. The detailed classification used for determining the social class group of all persons at work, unemployed or retired is given in Appendix 8.

Disability

Data on disability was derived from answers to questions 15 and 16 of the census questionnaire. The 2002 census questions were amended, in consultation with users and interested groups, to include three new categories of disability (Q15) and one new category of activity (Q16). Question 15 was a five-part question that asked about the existence of the following long lasting conditions: (a) blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment (sensory disability), (b) a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying (physical disability), (c) a learning or intellectual disability, (d) a psychological or emotional condition and (e) other, including any chronic illness.

If a person answered YES to any of the parts of Q15, they were then asked to answer Question 16. This question was also a five-part question that asked whether an individual had a difficulty doing any of the following activities: (a) learning, remembering or concentrating (mental disability); (b) dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home (self-care disability); (c) going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's surgery (going outside the home disability); (d) working at a job or business or attending school or college (employment disability) and (e) participating in other activities, such as leisure or using transport.

Individuals were classified as having a disability if they answered YES to any part of the above two questions, including in particular if they ticked YES to any of the parts of Q16 even though they may not have ticked YES to any of the parts of Q15.

Private Household

A *private household* comprises either one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping arrangements - that is, sharing at least one meal a day or sharing a living room or sitting room.

A *permanent private household* is a private household occupying a permanent dwelling such as a house, flat, apartment or bedsitter.

A *temporary private household* is a private household occupying a caravan, mobile home or other temporary dwelling and includes travelling people and homeless persons living rough on census night.

Appendix 2 (contd.)

Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas

The population in the Aggregate Town Area is defined as those persons living in population clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants. For this purpose a town with a legally defined boundary is classified on the basis of its total population including any suburbs or environs.

The population residing in all areas outside clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants is classified as belonging to the Aggregate Rural Area. The Aggregate Rural Area is a statistical concept and is not related to the former Rural District administrative unit.