Standard Report
on
Methods and Quality

for
Foreign Nationals: PPSN Allocations, Employment and Social Welfare Activity

This documentation applies to the reporting period:

2015

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1 Overview

The Foreign Nationals annual release details the number of Personal Public Service Numbers (PPSN) that have been allocated to foreign nationals in Ireland each year. It outlines employment activity and social welfare activity of those foreign nationals who have been allocated PPSNs.

2 General Information

2.1 Statistical Category

The analysis is based on three data sources:

- The Central Records System of the Department of Social Protection.
- The P35 files (employer end-of-year returns) of the Revenue Commissioners.
- The Central Business Register of the Central Statistics Office.

The variables used are the date the PPSN was assigned, the nationality at that time, the age at that time, sex, and the NACE category of employers economic activity.

2.2 Area of Activity

The foreign nationals release provides information on the labour market activity of inward migrants. The Labour Market section is responsible for the release.

2.3 Organisational Unit Responsible, Persons to Contact

Labour Market
Martina O'Callaghan   Tel: +35321 453 5491
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labour@cso.ie

2.4 Objectives and Purpose; History

The Foreign Nationals release tracks the number of foreign nationals that are allocated PPSNs in Ireland and their employment and social welfare activity. This illustrates the amount of inward migration and how engaged in the labour force they are.

2.5 Periodicity

The Foreign Nationals release is published annually.

2.6 Client

General national requirement as described in section 2.7 below.

2.7 Users

Statistics on foreign nationals have a wide national and international usage including government departments, economists, academics, NGO's, research bodies and the public.

2.8 Legal basis

None.

3 Statistical Concepts, Methods

3.1 Subject of the Statistics
The number of foreign nationals issued with PPSNs and their employment and social welfare activity.

3.2 Units of Observation/Collection Units/Units of Presentation
Unit of Observation:
- Employee records in the Revenue Commissioners' P35 data.
- Individual records in the Department of Social Protection.
- Individual business records of the Central Statistics Office

Unit of Presentation:

- Number of PPSNs allocated by year
- Employment activity of PPSN allocations
- Social welfare activity of PPSN allocations
- NACE economic sector of employers of those with employment activity
- Nationality of PPSN allocations

3.3 Data Sources
The analysis is based on three data sources:

- The Central Records System of the Department of Social Protection.
- The P35 files (employer end-of-year returns) of the Revenue Commissioners.
- The Central Business Register of the Central Statistics Office.

3.4 Reporting Unit/Respondents
Not applicable. Administrative records used.

3.5 Type of Survey/Process
Not applicable. Administrative records used.

3.6 Characteristics of the Sample/Process

3.6.1 Population and Sampling Frame
- Paid employee records returned to the Revenue Commissioners by employers in the P35L returns.
- The Central Business Register (CBR) is the business register of enterprises maintained by CSO to support the compilation of statistics on business as laid down in EU statistical legislation.
- Individuals on the Central Records System of the Department of Social Protection.

3.6.2 Sampling Design
Not applicable.

3.7 Survey Technique/Data Transfer
Data is transferred electronically using a secure exchange infrastructure.

3.8 Questionnaire (including explanations)
Not applicable.

3.9 Participation in the Survey
Not applicable.

3.10 Characteristics of the Survey/Process and its Results
The results presented in this release are based on a data-matching exercise undertaken by the CSO, for statistical purposes, of administrative data from of the Department of Social Protection and the Revenue Commissioners. This study was undertaken in line with the Statistics Act, 1993, and the CSO Data Protocol.

3.11 Classifications used
Nationality groups: The category EU15 excl Ireland & the UK consists of Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Finland and Sweden
The category EU15 to EU25 states consists of the states that joined the EU on 1 May 2004: the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.
The category EU25 to EU28 states consist of Romania and Bulgaria, who joined the EU on 1 January 2007 and Croatia on 1 July 2013.

Employment Activity: Employment activity for the purposes of this release includes any person appearing on the Revenue P35 files, or in the employment file within the Central Records System of the Department of Social Protection. The level of activity can vary from having worked one day in the year to working full-time throughout the year. Therefore the figures could include seasonal workers that arrive for the summer months and return to their country of origin at the end of the summer.

Social Welfare Activity: Social welfare activity for the purposes of this release includes any person appearing in the claims files within the Central Records System of the Department of Social Protection. This includes one off claims, such as dental and optical benefits, and ongoing claims, such as Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance, pensions and illness payments.

NACE Economic Sector Rev 2: Employment is classified using NACE Rev 2 economic sector of the individuals employer. Where persons had two or more employments during a year, they were allocated to the NACE category with the largest number of weeks of employment.

Arrivals: In this release, arrivals to Ireland in a particular year represent the number of PPS numbers allocated to foreign nationals in that year.

3.12 Regional Breakdown of Results
State Level Only

4 Production of the Statistics, Data Processing, Quality Assurance

4.1 Data Capture
The analysis dataset is derived from joining up the employee returns submitted by enterprises to the Revenue Commissioners with the CBR (to obtain enterprise based attributes) and the Client Record System from the Department of Social Protection (DSP) (to obtain person based attributes). CSO employs a Protected Identifier Key to protect the identity of individuals prior to making the dataset available for analysis

4.2 Coding
Dataset from the Department of Social Protection, Revenue and CSO are coded so as individual records can be match with one another.

4.3 Data Editing
Not applicable.

4.4 Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)
Not applicable.

4.5 Grossing and Weighting
Not applicable.

4.6 Computation of Outputs, Estimation Methods Used
Results are aggregated as per 3.11.

4.7 Other Quality Assurance Techniques Used
Quality is the subject of ongoing work both within and between the Revenue Commissioners, the Department of Social Protection, and the CSO. The Revenue Commissioners and Department of Social Protection obtain data that is required to be presented to them under law.

5 Quality

5.1 Relevance
Wide usage across national and international organisations and discussion in the media and among the general public is common. Data can be used for labour market policy analysis, migration policy and activity analysis.

5.2 Accuracy and Reliability

5.2.1. Sampling Effect & representivity
Not applicable.

5.2.2. Non-Sampling Effects
There is a legal requirement for enterprises and individuals to report to the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Social Protection. The P35L administrative data source from the Revenue Commissioners also contains information on number of weeks paid and reckonable pay (for tax purposes) for each employment record which can be used as indicators of job volume and value (and can be combined to give mean reckonable pay or an indicator of job quality).
The Foreign National Statistical Product excludes records found to be invalid and makes no adjustments at the firm level.

With the CBR (see Reference No. 5.2.2.2 below) in general, there is a one to one relationship between the enterprise as defined by the CBR ID and the employer registration number (PREM number). However, in a small number of cases an enterprise group may pass all of its employment through a single PREM number attached to a single enterprise. Another type of exception occurs where an enterprise can comprise a number of legal units and hence have multiple PREM numbers. The CBR also does not have comprehensive coverage of all employment sectors. These difficulties arise due to the lack of a Unique Business Identifier across all public administration systems and also the lack of a standard methodology to profile enterprises in the Public Sector.

In relation to matching the CBR data with the other relevant administrative data sources e.g. P35L and CRS (Client Record System), while at the Enterprise level there is no unique business identifier, at the person level there is the PPSN.

The CRS is a master register of all PPSNs assigned and contains information collected at registration on date of birth, sex and nationality as declared by the applicant. The purpose of the PPSN is to uniquely identify persons/customers when engaging or transacting with the State and is assigned when a person first interacts with the State. For those born in Ireland the PPSN is assigned shortly after birth (and is required to avail of child benefit). It is acknowledged that there may be some quality issues with respect to PPSNs inherited from the old RSI number such as duplicate numbers, persons being assigned more than one RSI number or an identical RSI number (with a suffix of M or F) for husband and wife. However, for statistical purposes, these quality issues are not considered significant.

5.2.2.1 Quality of the Data Sources used (other than survey register)
N/A

5.2.2.2 Register Coverage
The CBR is the Business Register of enterprises maintained by CSO. Please see section 3.6.1 above.
All employing enterprises in NACE Rev 2 sectors B - N excluding K64.20 are used for the purposes of the Foreign Nationals.

5.2.2.3 Non-response (Unit and Item)
Not applicable.

5.2.2.4 Measurement Errors
Not applicable.

5.2.2.5 Processing Errors
Not applicable.

5.2.2.6 Model-related Effects
Not applicable.

5.2.3 Data revision
Each year data for the previous five years is revised with the most up to date data on the three registers.

5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

5.3.1 Provisional Results
Not applicable.

5.3.2 Final Results
Typically 12 months from the end of the reference period.

5.4 Coherence
Data on foreign nationals is verified against CSO's population migration estimates and the Garda Migration Bureau.

5.5 Comparability
Not applicable.

5.6 Accessibility and Clarity

5.6.1 Assistance to Users, Special Analyses
The Foreign Nationals release is available to users here and data is available in the CSO's StatBank

5.6.2 Revisions
Final data is revised each year for the preceding 5 years.

5.6.3 Publications

5.6.3.1 Releases, Regular Publications
Foreign Nationals: PPSN Allocations, Employment and Social Welfare Activity (Annual)

5.6.3.2 Statistical Reports
None

5.6.3.3 Internet
The Foreign Nationals release is available to users here and data is available in the CSO's StatBank.

5.6.4 Confidentiality
All data are treated as strictly confidential in accordance with Part V of the Statistics Act, 1993. Only aggregate statistical data is disseminated.

6 Additional documentation and publications
CSO Survey and Methodology
http://www.cso.ie/en/surveysandmethodology/foreignnationals