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Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh**

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# **Standard SIMS Report: Industrial Disputes**



# **Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report**

## **For**

# **Industrial Disputes**

This documentation applies to the reporting period:

**2022**

Last edited:

16 October 2023



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## 2. Introduction

Industrial Disputes is a quarterly release, which comprises disputes which involve a stoppage of work lasting for at least one day and the total time lost is 10 or more person-days.

## 3. Contact

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## 4. Metadata Update

### 4.1. Metadata last certified

16 October 2023.

### 4.2. Metadata last posted

October 2023.

### 4.3. Metadata last update

16 October 2023.



## 5. Statistical Presentation

### 5.1. Data Description

Industrial Disputes statistics are counts of the number of disputes, firms and workers involved in industrial action in any given quarter. Data is also calculated for the number of days lost to industrial disputes in each quarter.

Disputes are included in this release if they involve a stoppage of work lasting for at least one day and the total time lost is 10 or more person-days.

### 5.2. Classification System

Up until Q3 2019 the classification used was the NACE Rev 2. Economic Activity classification. From Q4 2019, this classification is no longer available and only the number of firms, number of workers involved and numbers of days lost are available for industrial disputes which begin and are in progress on a quarterly basis.

### 5.3. Sector Coverage

All enterprises which have an industrial dispute which involve a stoppage of work lasting for at least one day and the total time lost is ten days or more.

### 5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

#### Days Lost

In calculating days lost, it is assumed that work would have continued if no dispute had occurred. No allowance is made for loss of work from unemployment or other causes (such as bad weather) which might have happened even if there was no dispute. The number of days lost is calculated by multiplying the number of persons involved by the number of normal working days during which they were involved in the dispute. Persons working for approximately 40 hours per week are assumed to be working the equivalent of a 5 day week even if the work is spread over more than 5 days.

#### Disputes in Progress

The tables show data on disputes which began and disputes which were in progress in each quarter. The quarterly figures for the number of disputes in progress and for the number of firms and workers involved will not always add to the annual total, since an industrial dispute can be in progress in more than one quarter.

#### Reference Quarters

The reference quarters for Industrial Disputes results are:

Q1 - January to March, Q2 - April to June, Q3 - July to September and Q4 - October to December.

### 5.5. Statistical Unit

The units of observation are those enterprises which have an industrial dispute in the given quarter and the employees involved in those disputes.

### 5.6. Statistical Population

All enterprises which have an industrial dispute which involve a stoppage of work lasting for at least one day and the total time lost is 10 or more person-days.



## 5.7. Reference Area

State

## 5.8. Time Coverage

1985-2023

## 5.9. Base period

Not applicable.

## 6. Unit of Measure

Number of industrial disputes and workers are expressed in integer numbers.  
Days lost is expressed in integer number of days.

## 7. Reference Period

2023

## 8. Institutional Mandate

### 8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

Not applicable.

### 8.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable.

## 9. Confidentiality

### 9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.

These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>



## 9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

All individual returns are treated as strictly confidential in accordance with Part V of the Statistics Act 1993. As information on disputes is already in the public domain, no confidentiality rules are applied to the release tables. No further analysis, other than information published in the quarterly release, is made available.

## 10. Release Policy

### 10.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.

### 10.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie), or directly from this link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/>

### 10.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at <https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/>

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website ([www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

## 11. Frequency of Dissemination

Quarterly.

## 12. Accessibility and clarity

### 12.1. News release

Not applicable.

### 12.2. Publications

The Industrial Disputes latest release can be accessed from the following link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/industrialdisputes/>

Note that the final web release available refers to Q2 2022. All data released from then on is only available through PxStat.





### 12.3. On-line database

All disseminated data for Industrial disputes is available in tabular format through our data dissemination portal PxStat. The tables can be accessed directly from this link: <https://data.cso.ie/product/id>

#### 12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations

During the period 1/1/2021 to 2/11/2021 the releases for the year were accessed a total of 464 times, of which 224 were unique page views.

### 12.4. Micro-data Access

Not applicable.

### 12.5. Other

Background notes are made available with each Industrial Disputes release.

The entry for this statistic under Data.Gov.ie (the portal to Ireland's official statistics) is at – <https://data.gov.ie/dataset/industrial-disputes-by-economic-sector-nace-rev-2-quarter-and-statistic>

Data on Industrial Disputes across EU can also be found on Eurostat website – <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/>

#### 12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

### 12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Further information on the Methodology used to produce the Industrial Disputes Survey can be found on the CSO website or by following Link; <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/labourmarket/industrialdisputes/>

#### 12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

### 12.7. Quality Documentation

Further information on the quality documentation for the Industrial Disputes survey can be found on the CSO website or by using: <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/qualityreports/industrialdisputes/>

## 13. Quality Management

### 13.1. Quality Assurance

#### Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCoP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.



## 13.2. Quality Assessment

Constant contact with the DETE ensures timely and accurate reporting of disputes to CSO. CSO also monitors the occurrence of industrial disputes through the use of other sources on an ongoing basis.

## 14. Relevance

### 14.1. User Needs

Any users with an interest in labour market statistics - including government, international institutions, national and local media, research institutions, community organisations etc.

#### 14.1.1. Main National Users

Government, business, economists, policy makers, national media.

#### 14.1.2. Principal External Users

Eurostat

### 14.2. User Satisfaction

Not calculated.

### 14.3. Data Completeness

Not calculated.

#### 14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

Not calculated.

## 15. Accuracy and reliability

### 15.1. Overall accuracy

Not applicable.

### 15.2. Sampling Error

Not applicable.

#### 15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Not applicable,

### 15.3. Non-sampling Error

Not applicable.

#### 15.3.1. Coverage error

Total of all NACE sectors.



#### **15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate**

Not calculated.

#### **15.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion**

Not applicable.

#### **15.3.2. Measurement error**

Measurement errors are mitigated by the use of a simple and well laid-out questionnaire issued to trade unions, the availability of trained staff to support respondents, and a data collection system which mitigates against conflicting data.

#### **15.3.3. Non-Response Error**

Non respondents are followed up by e-mail and phone. Both unit and item non-response are recorded and pursued until data is obtained. Item estimation based on administrative sources may be used in rare cases if no other source is available, but response rate is usually 100%.

##### **15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate**

0%

##### **15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate**

0%

#### **15.3.4. Processing error**

Processing errors are at a minimum as survey data received is keyed into an excel file and all entries are double-checked. Edit checks are also performed on survey data to compare with information received by the DETE.

#### **15.3.5. Model assumption error**

Not Applicable.

## **16. Timeliness and punctuality**

### **16.1. Timeliness**

Final data is published T+56 days after the reference period (i.e. calendar quarter) which is within the publication schedule timelines. Note that from Q2 2022 data is only disseminated via our open data platform PxStat.

#### **16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results**

Not applicable.

#### **16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results**

56 days.

### **16.2. Punctuality**

The release is published on time in accordance with the date indicated in the release calendar.



#### **16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication**

0 days.

## **17. Comparability**

### **17.1. Comparability – Geographical**

The Industrial Disputes release is a stand-alone set of figures, which does not, on its own, lend itself to comparison between time periods or across countries.

#### **17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics**

Not applicable.

### **17.2. Comparability over time**

Data for industrial disputes has been released by CSO since 2008. The full time series is available from the PxStat dissemination database.

#### **17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series**

15 Years.

### **17.3. Coherence – cross domain**

The industrial disputes release is a standalone set of figures, which does not lend itself to scrutiny against other labour market data, e.g. Labour Force survey.

#### **17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics**

Not applicable.

#### **17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts**

Not applicable,

### **17.4. Coherence – internal**

Not applicable.

## **18. Cost and Burden**

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/enterprisestatistics/responseburdenbarometer/>

Survey specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat. <https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB>



## 19. Data Revision

### 19.1. Data Revision Policy

Published statistics are subject to correction and revision for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons include the receipt of additional information (for example, late survey responses) and updated seasonal factors. Occasional revisions also occur as a result of changes to definitions, methodology, classifications and general updating of statistical series.

It is recognised internationally that the existence of a sound revisions policy maintains credibility in official statistics. The CSO General Revisions Policy, which details how revisions should be managed and communicated to users, outlines the three main types of revisions:

- Planned Routine Revisions
- Planned Major Revisions
- Unplanned Revisions.

One reason for unplanned revisions occurring can be when errors are detected after publication. The 'CSO Error Correction Policy – How to deal with Publication Errors' outlines the steps taken when these errors are detected. As required under Principle 6.3 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, errors detected in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and users are informed. An important step in the process is the documentation and analysis of errors that have occurred and their causes. This allows the CSO to take measures preventing similar errors from occurring in the future and uniformity in dealing with them when they do.

The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/>

### 19.2. Data Revision Practice

As the Industrial Disputes release uses a census of quarterly disputes revisions are generally not performed on Industrial Disputes data, but estimated item data may be revised in a subsequent release.

#### 19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not applicable.

## 20. Statistical processing

### 20.1. Source Data

The information on Industrial Disputes is based on details supplied by the Industrial Relations Section, Department of Business, Enterprise and Employment (<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Industrial-Relations/>)

Detailed data is then sourced by a CSO survey from those trade unions or enterprises involved in industrial disputes in any given quarter.

#### 20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

All enterprises which have an industrial dispute which involve a stoppage of work lasting for at least one day and the total time lost is 10 or more person-days.

#### 20.1.2. Sampling design

It is a full census of enterprises involved in an industrial dispute in the State in a given quarter.



### **20.1.3. Survey size**

Number of industrial disputes which began or were in progress during a given quarter, (usually less than 30 disputes).

### **20.1.4. Survey technique**

A list of industrial disputes in a given quarter is sent by e-mail to CSO from the DETE. An e-mail questionnaire is then sent to each trade union or enterprise involved in an industrial dispute requesting further information. Completed questionnaires are sent back to CSO by e-mail or occasionally post, while follow-up queries are dealt with by e-mails, phone calls or post.

Data are collected on the duration of the industrial dispute, numbers involved in dispute, work patterns, nature of dispute etc. The number of disputes is small each quarter (typically less than five). Processing involves the manual entry of the survey information onto an excel spreadsheet. This is followed by the manual production of simple aggregations to generate release results.

## **20.2. Frequency of data collection**

Quarterly

## **20.3. Data Collection**

A CSO industrial disputes questionnaire is sent to each trade union or enterprise involved in an industrial dispute in a given quarter. The list of industrial disputes is initially received from the DETE.

### **20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process**

Multisource including administrative and survey data.

### **20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)**

A questionnaire is issued which asks for information on specifics of the dispute, economic sector of enterprise, workers involved and days lost. Questionnaires are generally e-mailed in a Word format document, but are occasionally posted to each trade union or enterprise involved in an industrial dispute.

### **20.3.3. Survey Participation**

The trade union or enterprise involved in an industrial dispute is requested to participate in the survey. Participation is voluntary but non-participation may lead to estimated data based on administrative sources being published for a particular enterprise.

### **20.3.4. Data Capture**

Manual data entry is used to process questionnaires completed by trade unions or enterprises involved in industrial disputes, and the data is stored in excel spreadsheets on the CSO network.

## **20.4. Data Validation**

Data is checked against other sources (e.g. Industrial Relations magazine) at individual dispute level. Macro edits and consistency checks are performed manually. Any erroneous data found are referred back to the data providers for clarification or amendment.

Since data is not considered to be confidential as disputes are in the public arena already, follow-up queries are undertaken by e-mail and phone to ensure that the data is finalised within the publication timelines.



## 20.5. Data Compilation

Excel tables are used to create simple aggregates for output tables.

### 20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Data comes from a census of those enterprises involved in disputes in a given quarter. If data is missing or incomplete follow up queries to the participating trade union or enterprise involved are used along with other sources such as media reports or the DETE. In rare cases estimated data based on administrative sources may be used if no other source is available.

#### 20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not calculated.

### 20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Not applicable as data comes from census of disputes in a given quarter.

## 20.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

### 20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.,

## 21. Comment