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Central  
Statistics  
Office

# **Standard Report on Methods and Quality for Live Register Analysis and Live Register Age by Duration**

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This documentation applies to the reporting period:

**2020**

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## 1 Overview

The Live Register is a monthly release, which comprises a count of all persons under 65 years of age who are claiming Jobseekers Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance and Other registrants (e.g. social welfare credits). The Live Register is compiled from administrative returns made to the CSO by the Department of Employment of Social Protection (DSP) for each social welfare office relating to week containing the last Thursday in each calendar month.

Data are presented by gender, claim type, age group (under and over 25 years), previous occupation held, geographical breakdown (NUTS3) and nationality. Data are seasonally adjusted and subject to revision each month.

A geographical breakdown of persons on the Live Register by county, province and Local Social Welfare Office is available on CSO StatBank.

The Live Register Age by Duration, which is derived from the Live Register, is published as a StatBank update at the time of the Live Register Release. Data in this series are presented by gender, claim type, detailed age group, detailed duration and NUTS3 region.

The Live Register is used as a short-term indicator of labour market activity. The Monthly Unemployment release is the definitive measure of monthly unemployment. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides benchmark estimates of unemployment on a quarterly basis.

## 2 General Information

### 2.1 Statistical Category

Administrative data from the Department of Social Protection (DSP). All data are counts of persons on the Live Register.

### 2.2 Area of Activity

Labour Market Statistics

### 2.3 Organisational Unit Responsible, Persons to Contact

Labour Market & Earnings

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### 2.4 Objectives and Purpose; History

The objective is to maintain a short term timely series on the number of persons on the Live Register on a monthly basis. Live Register information is available from 1967 to date on a monthly basis. Initially the Live Register was used as a formal indicator of unemployment in the absence of official regular sources of information on the labour market. With the introduction of the Labour Force Survey in 1975 the Live Register provided short term information in between each Labour Force Survey (initially undertaken every 2 years). This role of providing a short term indicator continued over time even as the Labour Force Survey

evolved into an annual survey in 1981 and eventually became quarterly (Labour Force Survey (LFS) in 1997. The Monthly Unemployment release first published in June 2015, (May 2015 - reference period) provides a detailed series of monthly unemployment estimates. The release contains both monthly unemployment rates and monthly unemployment volumes. These outputs replaced the seasonally adjusted Standardised Unemployment Rate (SUR), previously published in the Live Register release, as the definitive measure of monthly unemployment.

## **2.5 Periodicity**

Monthly count of all persons on Live Register and as of January 2017 a monthly (rather than the previous bi-annual periodicity) count of persons on the Live Register in the case of Live Register age by duration.

## **2.6 Client**

General national requirement.

## **2.7 Users**

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

## **2.8 Legal basis**

None.

# **3 Statistical Concepts, Methods**

## **3.1 Subject of the Statistics**

Live Register statistics are counts of the number of persons signing on the Live Register each month. The data are used as a short term indicator in relation to labour market activity. The Live Register is not the official measure of unemployment. The Monthly Unemployment release is the definitive measure of monthly unemployment. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides benchmark estimates of unemployment on a quarterly basis.

## **3.2 Units of Observation/Collection Units/Units of Presentation**

Units of observations are persons under 65 years of age who are claiming Jobseekers Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance and Other registrants (e.g. social welfare credits).

Units of collections are local offices of Department of Social Protection (DSP).

Live Register numbers are presented in various groupings (e.g. sex, age group, nationality group, Local Welfare Office, etc.).

## **3.3 Data Sources**

Live Register information is sourced from Department of Social Protection (DSP). The initial data source is the local office where registrants sign on.

## **3.4 Reporting Unit/Respondents**

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of administrative data which is centrally compiled within the Department of Social Protection (DSP) and supplied to the CSO.

### **3.5 Type of Survey/Process**

Compilation is based on the use of administrative data which is amassed by the Department of Social Protection (DSP) and submitted to the CSO for publication. The statistics are counts of the number of persons on the Live Register.

### **3.6 Characteristics of the Sample/Process**

#### **3.6.1 Population and Sampling Frame**

The population of interest is all persons under 65 years of age who are claiming Jobseekers Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance and Other registrants (e.g. social welfare credits) at local DSP offices. As individuals must sign on to receive payments or credits, the Live Register provides a full count of the population of interest each month.

#### **3.6.2 Sampling Design**

It is a full census of Department of Social Protection (DSP) local offices in the State.

### **3.7 Survey Technique/Data Transfer**

Information is entered in each local office for every registrant. Department of Social Protection (DSP) electronically transmits data to the CSO.

### **3.8 Questionnaire (including explanations)**

No CSO questionnaire is used as claimant microdata is sent to CSO in an agreed electronic format layout by Department of Social Protection (DSP).

### **3.9 Participation in the Survey**

It is agreed that the Department of Social Protection (DSP) supply CSO with data on a monthly basis. The CSO has no interaction directly with either the local offices or the persons actually signing on to the Live Register.

### **3.10 Characteristics of the Survey/Process and its Results**

Data are presented on aggregations (counts) of the actual persons on the Live Register.

As the Live Register demonstrates measurable seasonal fluctuations over time, the data is seasonally adjusted on a monthly basis. Seasonally adjusted series are specifically calculated for males under 25 years, males 25 years and over, females under 25 years and females 25 years and over. These adjusted series are then aggregated to produce additional seasonally adjusted series for all males, all females, all persons under 25 years, all persons 25 years and over and total persons. The adjustments are completed by applying the X-12 ARIMA model developed by the US Census Bureau, using the JDemetra+ software.

Since the Live Register is not an official measure of unemployment, as it also includes part-time, seasonal and casual workers, official Irish unemployment figures are obtained on a monthly basis from Monthly Unemployment release, which is the definitive measure of monthly unemployment. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides benchmark estimates of unemployment on a quarterly basis.

### **3.11 Classifications used**

Sex  
Age groups  
Type of scheme  
Administrative counties  
NUTS (EU Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) regional groupings  
Occupation (previously held) groups  
Nationality groupings  
Duration of continuous registration

See background notes in release for more information on categories in each classification used –

<http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/>

### **3.12 Regional Breakdown of Results**

NUTS 2 & 3 level regions  
Provinces  
Administrative counties  
Department of Social Protection (DSP) local offices

For further information on NUTS see –

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-BD-04-005-3>

## **4 Production of the Statistics, Data Processing, Quality Assurance**

### **4.1 Data Capture**

Claimant microdata is provided from the Department of Social Protection's Integrated Short-Term Scheme (ISTS) database.

### **4.2 Coding**

Individuals included in the claimant microdata provided by the DSP are determined to be on the Live Register if they fulfil the Live Register criteria and are coded as such.

### **4.3 Data Editing**

Data are checked against previous month/reference period and macro edits are used to check sub-totals. Actual amendments/corrections are rarely undertaken.

### **4.4 Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)**

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of administrative data.

### **4.5 Grossing and Weighting**

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of administrative data and all data are full counts of the number of persons on the Live Register according to the relevant classification.



#### **4.6 Computation of Outputs, Estimation Methods Used**

SAS is used to create aggregates for output tables which are used for publication purposes. All data are counts with the exception of seasonally adjusted estimates.

#### **4.7 Other Quality Assurance Techniques Used**

Constant contact with the Department of Social Protection (DSP) ensures timely and accurate reporting of data to CSO.

### **5 Quality**

#### **5.1 Relevance**

Wide usage across government departments and general public.

#### **5.2 Accuracy and Reliability**

##### **5.2.1. Sampling Effect & representivity**

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source. All local offices are included in the overall count (i.e. census of local offices).

##### **5.2.2. Non-Sampling Effects**

###### **5.2.2.1 Quality of the Data Sources used (other than survey register)**

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source. It involves the actual count of claimants.

###### **5.2.2.2 Register Coverage**

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source.

###### **5.2.2.3 Non-response (Unit and Item)**

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source.

###### **5.2.2.4 Measurement Errors**

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source.

###### **5.2.2.5 Processing Errors**

Processing errors are at a minimum, as data correspond with data collected at local office level and it is taken at face value.

#### **5.2.2.6 Model-related Effects**

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source.

### **5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality**

#### **5.3.1 Provisional Results**

Not Applicable – data are available T+5 days after the reference period for the monthly release.

#### **5.3.2 Final Results**

The main release which consists of State level information is published T+5 days after the reference period (i.e. the week of the last Thursday of each month) which is within the publication schedule timelines. Additional data tables (county and local office data) are also published on the CSO website (StatBank) at this time.

### **5.4 Coherence**

Live Register results are taken as a short term indicator of labour market activity. As such the main source of similar information is the official estimate of monthly unemployment as published in the Monthly Unemployment estimates. However, the Live Register is an administrative count of claimants and is not designed to measure unemployment directly. Therefore, while trends between official unemployment figures are analysed and trends are broadly similar full coherence in terms of total number of persons unemployed is not expected. A note is included on the Live Register each month stating that the Live Register is not the official measure of unemployment to make this difference transparent to users.

### **5.5 Comparability**

The Live Register is a stand-alone set of figures and does not take into account changes in the labour force.

### **5.6 Accessibility and Clarity**

#### **5.6.1 Assistance to Users, Special Analyses**

Background notes are made available with each Live Register release.

#### **5.6.2 Revisions**

In general, Live Register data are not revised. But in October 2009 a comprehensive twelve-month revision back to October 2008 was carried out based on new compilation methods employed by the Department of Social Protection (DSP). Specifically, these changes allowed the identification of a small number of individuals who should not previously have been included in the Live Register count but could not have been separately identified and excluded under previous arrangements.

Beginning with January 2017, the Live Register monthly release will be produced using claimant microdata from the Department of Social Protection's (DSP) Integrated Short Term Scheme (ISTS) database, whereas prior to January 2017, the Live Register was produced from tabulated claimant counts provided directly to the CSO by the DSP. This new approach will continue to support the production of current Live Register data while it will also facilitate additional future analyses being undertaken by CSO.

As claimant count microdata is retrospectively available to January 2012, previously published Live Register data for this period have been revised with data now also produced from this claimant count microdata. These revisions are generally minor in nature and all relevant data have been updated and issued with the production of the Live register publication for reference month January 2017 on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.

#### **5.6.3 Publications**

#### **5.6.3.1 Releases, Regular Publications**

Monthly Live Register release (web only) containing total number of persons on the Live Register by type of claim, sex, age, geographic (NUTS3) and last held occupation, as well as seasonally adjusted figures.

Monthly Live Register tables (published on StatBank only) - containing province, county and Social Welfare Local Offices breakdowns of the total persons on the Live Register.

From February 2017, the data previously published in this series will be published as a monthly series in Statbank series LRM15. Data in this series, which is available from January 2012, is presented by gender, claim type, detailed age group, detailed duration and NUTS3 region.

#### **5.6.3.2 Statistical Reports**

Statistical Yearbook of Ireland.

#### **5.6.3.3 Internet**

Live Register latest release –

<http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/>

Live Register StatBank tables –

<http://www.cso.ie/shorturl.aspx/436>

#### **5.6.4 Confidentiality**

All data are treated as strictly confidential in accordance with Part V of the Statistics Act 1993.

### **6 Additional documentation and publications**

The entry for this statistic under StatCentral (the portal to Ireland's official statistics) is at –

<http://www.statcentral.ie/viewStat.asp?id=164>