



## An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh Central Statistics Office

### Preas Ráiteas Press Statement



## 20.10.2010 World Statistics Day European statistics: an information source for everyone

On 20 October, on the initiative of the United Nations, World Statistics Day is being celebrated for the first time. This event highlights the importance of official statistics in our society, and is intended to raise awareness of the many achievements of official statistics based on the core values of service, professionalism and integrity. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated “Let us make this historic World Statistics Day a success by acknowledging and celebrating the role of statistics in the social and economic development of our societies and by dedicating further efforts and resources to strengthening national statistical capacity”. At EU level, the efforts made over more than 50 years by the National Statistical Offices of the Member States, together with Eurostat (the statistical office of the EU), to produce reliable and comparable data have meant that nowadays European statistics are used in many different ways by a growing number of people.

European statistics present two main features which make them irreplaceable. They provide an average for the whole of the EU, which can serve as a point of reference for comparison. And they give comparable data for each Member State, helping to illustrate the similarities and differences within the EU. Such European statistics exist across a wide range of fields – population, the economy, prices, external trade, labour market, health, education...

Today, European statistics play a key role in guiding government policy, in supporting decisions made by enterprises, and in enabling citizens to judge progress and to compare themselves with their neighbours.

For example, European regional statistics guide the European Commission in the allocation of regional funding, while environmental and energy statistics are crucial in the follow-up of the EU sustainable development strategy. In the economic area, harmonised price statistics play a key role in the monetary policy of Central Banks. Business people use external trade statistics to investigate new opportunities across the internal market, while European citizens can compare taxation or unemployment in their country with other Member States. In 2011 a new population census will be launched in all Member States, and the results of these censuses will be vital, for example, at national level in decisions on the location of public infrastructure (schools, hospitals, energy supply, transport...) as well as at European level in the determination of voting weight in the European Council.

[More/...](#)



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The Central Statistics Office joins the UN and the international statistical community in the celebration of World Statistics Day, and will mark the day with a number of events:

- The CSO will host a press conference in Government Buildings, Dublin, on 20 October at 9:30am. The conference will be opened by Minister for State, Mr John Curran TD, after which the CSO will present key findings from the Statistical Yearbook of Ireland 2010, being published at 10am that morning.
- In conjunction with the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE), the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) and Project Maths Development Team, the CSO are launching the CensusAtSchool project in all primary and post primary schools to mark World Statistics Day. All Irish schools are being encouraged to complete the CensusAtSchool questionnaire on that day. (For more details see [www.censusatschool.ie](http://www.censusatschool.ie).)
- The CSO will also launch a new annual award, the John Hooper Medal for Statistics, in cooperation with Project Maths and the International Statistical Literacy Project, to support the improvement and appreciation of mathematics in schools. For more details see [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie). Winners of the John Hooper Medal will go on to represent Ireland at the International Statistical Literacy poster competition, the winners of which will be announced at the International Statistics Institute World Congress, to be held in Dublin in August 2011.
- The Central Statistics Office is also hosting a special symposium on Input-Output analysis. This symposium will mark the outstanding contribution that Dr Eamon Henry has made to the development of Input-Output in Ireland and his contribution to understanding the complex inter-dependencies of our economy. The symposium will be held in the office of the CSO, Ardee Road, Dublin on 20 October at 10am, and will feature talks on the mechanics, applications and extensions of input-output analysis in Ireland.

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*Central Statistics Office*

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