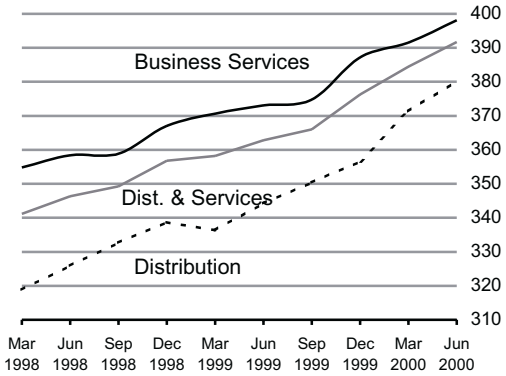
Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

5 December 2000

Earnings in Distribution and Business Services

June 2000 First Estimates

Average Weekly Earnings (£)



Average Full-Time Weekly Earnings

	June 1999	June 2000	Annual Change
	£	£	%
Distribution & Business Services	362.80	391.75	+7.9
Distribution	344.23	380.23	+10.5
Business Services	373.08	398.09	+6.7

Average weekly earnings up by 7.9% in June 2000

Average weekly earnings of full-time employees in enterprises with five or more persons engaged in the distribution and business services sectors was £391.75 in June 2000, compared with £362.80 in June 1999, an increase of 7.9% in the year. *See Table 1.*

Average weekly earnings in the distribution sector was £380.23 in June 2000, compared with a June 1999 level of £344.23, an increase of 10.5% in the year. *See Table 1.*

Average weekly earnings in the business services sector was £398.09 up from £373.08 in June 1999, an increase of 6.7% in the year. *See Table 1.*

The breakdown of earnings into the different sub-sectors shows:

- The highest average weekly earnings were recorded in the Post and Telecommunications sub-sector, with a level of £509.13 in June 2000.
- The lowest average weekly earnings were in the Accommodation and Catering sub-sector, at £246.85 in June 2000.

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NACE Code	Sector	1998					1999					2000	
		March	June	Sept.	Dec.	Year	March	June	Sept.	Dec.	Year	March[1]	June
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
50	Motor Trade	284.04	286.03	293.41	291.98	288.87	298.21	306.23	312.40	315.92	308.19	330.38	339.31
51	Wholesale Trade	361.93	367.11	372.96	382.46	371.12	378.61	385.98	384.89	392.93	385.60	405.35	407.28
52	Retail Trade	303.78	312.04	320.08	326.24	315.54	323.06	333.10	342.62	349.17	336.99	364.58	378.31
55	Accommodation & Catering	217.43	223.26	228.33	232.94	225.49	235.80	238.28	242.01	241.00	239.27	244.16	246.85
60	Land Transport	331.12	341.57	347.64	359.00	344.83	361.14	362.21	360.12	379.63	365.78	379.65	390.76
61-63	Other Transport activity	392.18	394.57	398.47	405.63	397.71	400.39	391.44	403.20	407.97	400.75	408.81	421.39
64	Post & Telecommunications	487.25	492.21	491.10	487.04	489.40	487.62	495.43	498.74	499.60	495.35	504.31	509.13
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	330.29	333.53	339.91	339.82	335.89	347.41	353.18	358.31	363.62	355.63	367.19	380.25
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	411.84	417.60	419.97	425.94	418.84	430.96	437.96	443.93	462.67	443.88	473.72	479.68
74	Other Business activity	358.27	362.90	367.47	375.54	366.05	376.10	380.69	388.67	403.33	387.20	404.64	415.61

[1] Revised

[1]

Euro €

NACE Code	Sector	1998 March	1998 June	1998 Sept.	1998 Dec.	1998 Year	1999 March	1999 June	1999 Sept.	1999 Dec.	1999 Year	2000 March[2]	2000 June
50	Motor Trade	360.66	363.18	372.55	370.74	366.78	378.65	388.83	396.67	401.14	391.32	419.50	430.83
51	Wholesale Trade	459.56	466.13	473.56	485.62	471.22	480.74	490.09	488.71	498.92	489.61	514.69	517.14
52	Retail Trade	385.72	396.21	406.42	414.24	400.64	410.20	422.95	435.04	443.35	427.89	462.92	480.35
55	Accommodation & Catering	276.08	283.48	289.92	295.77	286.31	299.40	302.55	307.29	306.01	303.81	310.02	313.43
60	Land Transport	420.44	433.70	441.41	455.84	437.85	458.55	459.91	457.26	482.03	464.44	482.06	496.16
61-63	Other Transport activity	497.97	501.00	505.95	515.04	504.99	508.39	497.03	511.96	518.02	508.85	519.08	535.05
64	Post & Telecommunications	618.68	624.98	623.57	618.41	621.41	619.15	629.07	633.27	634.36	628.96	640.34	646.46
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	419.38	423.50	431.60	431.48	426.49	441.12	448.45	454.96	461.70	451.56	466.24	482.82
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	522.93	530.24	533.25	540.83	531.81	547.21	556.09	563.67	587.47	563.61	601.50	609.07
74	Other Business activity	454.91	460.79	466.59	476.84	464.77	477.55	483.38	493.51	512.12	491.64	513.79	527.72

[1] Converted at the EU official exchange rate conversionfactor, fixed at 0.787564, effective from 1 January 1999
[2] Revised

Background Notes

Introduction

This Release details average weekly earnings of full-time employees in the Distribution and Business Services sectors. The series are derived from quarterly inquiries to enterprises, conducted under the Statistics (Business Accounts) Order, 1996, made under the Statistics Act 1993.

The numbers of persons engaged in the Distribution and Services sectors, as estimated by the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), are shown in Table A in the Appendix. Early analysis showed that it would not be possible to derive reliable earnings estimates for part-time employees or for small enterprises with less than 5 persons engaged[†]. These have been excluded from the current release.

The new series, therefore, covers full-time employees in enterprises with 5 or more persons engaged. The survey collects details of the number of full-time employees (defined as persons working 30 or more hours per week) and their total wages. The number of hours worked was not sought, nor was any breakdown by gender or employment activity.

Scope

The activity classification used is the NACE Rev. 1 classification. The survey relates to a week in the months of March, June, September and December. It covers a sample of enterprises in the Distribution sector (NACE divisions 50 to 52), and NACE divisions 55, 60 to 64, and 70 to 74 of the Business Services sector. The target sample size is approximately 25% of the total number of enterprises with 5 or more persons engaged.

Methodology

Using the CSO Business Register, the sample in each quarter is classified into cells defined by NACE division and employment size. March 1998 was taken as the base period and average earnings per person per week were computed, from the survey returns, for each cell. These cell averages were then weighted by the corresponding estimated full-time employment to derive the average earnings at divisional and higher levels. The employment figures used for this weighting were the QNHS estimates for the December 1997 – February 1998 quarter, allocated to size classes using the Business Register.

For each subsequent quarter, a matched sample of enterprises making returns in both the current quarter and the previous quarter was used. The average weekly earnings in each cell of the matched sample for both quarters were computed. The quarter-on-quarter matched sample change in average weekly earnings in each cell was then applied to the average weekly earnings for the cell in the previous quarter, to produce the average weekly earnings for the cell in the current quarter. These cell averages were then weighted by QNHS-based full-time employment estimates for the current quarter to produce average earnings at divisional and higher levels.

Tables B and C in the Appendix show the number of full-time employees and the number of enterprises, respectively, covered by returns used to compile the average weekly earnings figures in each period since March 1998.

Definitions

Employee
An employee is defined as any person working in the enterprise who is paid a definite wage or salary. Full-time employees are employees who work 30 or more hours per week.

Earnings
Earnings represent the gross amount (before the deduction of tax, PRSI, superannuation, etc.) payable to employees. Earnings include normal wages and salaries and overtime, taxable allowances, regular bonuses and commissions, as well as holiday pay and sick pay. Excluded from earnings are back-pay, redundancy pay, irregular bonuses (incl. annual bonuses), advances of pay, expenses, employers PRSI, and any earnings paid at irregular intervals.

Enterprise
An enterprise is defined as the smallest legally independent business unit. It may be comprised of one or more local units or branches.

[†] Rough indications based on the first six quarters are that including enterprises with less than 5 persons engaged would result in the overall average full-time weekly earnings figures being reduced by approximately £20.

NACE Code	Sector	Persons Engaged		Full-time Employees		Full-time Employees in Enterprises with 5+ Persons Engaged[2]	
		Q1 1998	Q2 2000	Q1 1998	Q2 2000	Q1 1998	Q2 2000
	Distribution & Business Services:	**507,600**	**589,000**	**302,900**	**369,000**	**240,500**	**292,500**
	Distribution:	**214,100**	**235,700**	**121,600**	**138,800**	**91,300**	**103,800**
50	Motor Trade	32,900	37,200	19,900	24,000	14,200	17,100
51	Wholesale Trade	47,100	49,100	34,000	35,800	28,500	30,000
52	Retail Trade	134,100	149,400	67,700	79,000	48,600	56,700
	Business Services:	**293,500**	**353,300**	**181,300**	**230,200**	**149,200**	**188,600**
55	Accommodation & Catering	94,700	109,000	43,800	54,600	33,500	41,700
60	Land Transport	33,100	38,100	18,800	22,600	15,100	18,200
61-63	Other Transport Activity	23,500	29,300	20,400	25,200	18,900	23,400
64	Post & Telecommunications	29,200	33,400	24,700	28,900	23,700	27,800
70-71	Real Estate,Renting of Machinery	8,300	12,100	4,700	7,600	2,600	4,200
72-73	Computing Activity, R & D	25,300	33,800	21,800	29,500	18,700	25,300
74	Other Business Activity	79,400	97,600	47,100	61,800	36,600	48,000

[1] QNHS employment estimates for December - February and March - May used for Q1 1998 and Q2 2000 respectively

[2] QNHS estimates, adjusted using CSO Business Register

NACE Code	Sector	1998				1999				2000	
		Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.[1]	Jun.
	Distribution & Business Services:	**127,151**	**109,124**	**100,095**	**99,943**	**91,595**	**100,831**	**105,724**	**103,832**	**99,938**	**97,399**
	Distribution:	**38,700**	**31,954**	**29,857**	**29,844**	**24,492**	**27,134**	**28,536**	**28,341**	**26,847**	**25,045**
50	Motor Trade	4,462	3,459	3,562	3,354	2,592	3,019	2,768	3,006	3,206	2,530
51	Wholesale Trade	13,998	12,851	12,530	13,426	10,452	11,566	11,471	11,572	10,306	10,161
52	Retail Trade	20,240	15,644	13,765	13,064	11,448	12,549	14,297	13,763	13,335	12,354
	Business Services:	**88,451**	**77,170**	**70,238**	**70,099**	**67,103**	**73,697**	**77,188**	**75,491**	**73,091**	**72,354**
55	Accommodation & Catering	19,151	14,678	11,088	10,718	9,522	10,857	13,001	11,474	11,087	8,879
60	Land Transport	11,821	11,402	9,544	9,317	9,039	11,134	11,584	11,453	11,002	11,328
61-63	Other Transport activity	9,767	8,542	8,188	8,254	7,725	8,733	9,131	9,800	10,039	10,618
64	Post & Telecommunications	21,291	21,126	21,685	21,454	22,004	21,262	21,348	21,120	21,608	20,839
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machnery	2,697	2,201	2,303	2,458	1,965	2,212	2,389	2,245	1,813	1,562
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	5,657	4,998	4,145	2,998	3,295	4,207	4,807	5,159	5,076	5,071
74	Other Business activity	18,067	14,223	13,285	14,900	13,553	15,292	14,928	14,240	12,466	14,057

[1] Revised

NACE Code	Sector	1998				1999				2000	
		Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.[1]	Jun.
	Distribution & Business Services:	**2,903**	**2,332**	**2,200**	**2,265**	**1,512**	**1,780**	**1,868**	**1,857**	**1,550**	**1,449**
	Distribution:	**1,377**	**1,132**	**1,000**	**1,022**	**609**	**744**	**786**	**787**	**764**	**625**
50	Motor Trade	231	179	191	190	119	142	133	132	145	109
51	Wholesale Trade	384	334	329	366	215	260	271	287	275	234
52	Retail Trade	762	619	480	466	275	342	382	368	344	282
	Business Services:	**1,526**	**1,200**	**1,200**	**1,243**	**903**	**1,036**	**1,082**	**1,070**	**786**	**824**
55	Accommodation & Catering	566	436	472	463	375	419	404	391	304	322
60	Land Transport	105	83	71	72	52	61	77	70	42	40
61-63	Other Transport activity	106	86	74	73	64	74	63	63	50	45
64	Post & Telecommunications	31	25	25	24	18	22	19	19	17	16
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machnery	108	89	80	86	30	39	46	50	28	26
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	96	77	65	63	41	62	75	80	64	62
74	Other Business activity	514	404	413	462	323	359	398	397	281	313

[1] Revised