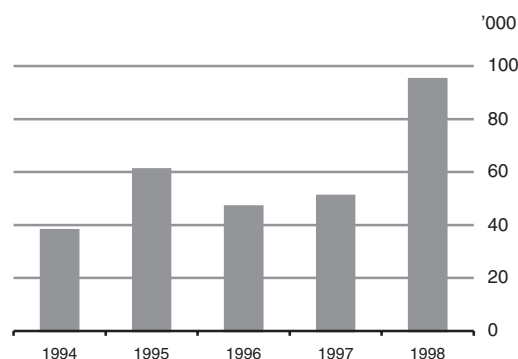


Based on the 1996 Census of Population figures
For figures based on the 2002 Census of Population see the
revised QNHS series.

30 November 1998

Annual growth in ILO employment



Quarterly National Household Survey First and Second Quarters 1998

Change in ILO Labour Force,
April 1997 - March-May 1998

	'000		
	Overall Change	Of which, due to new survey methodology	Underlying change in year
In Employment	+115	+20	+95
Unemployed	-32	-	-32
Labour Force	+82	+20	+62

Employment grows by over 90,000 in year

The number of persons in employment is estimated to have grown by 95,000 in the year between April 1997 and the second quarter of 1998. This is the highest annual increase on record. Males are estimated to have increased by 52,000 and females by 43,000.

The estimate was obtained by comparing the April 1997 Labour Force Survey (LFS) figures, based on the ILO classification system, with results from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) for quarter two (March to May) of 1998. The estimated annual change is calculated after a downward adjustment of 20,000 to the recorded total change to take account of the once-off effect of introducing the new survey. *See page 4 and Background Notes for more details on comparing the two surveys.*

While the QNHS has not been under way long enough yet to permit a definite interpretation of the seasonal pattern of employment, the available figures tend to indicate that underlying growth was fairly uniform throughout the 12 months. *See Background Notes.*

Almost 8 per cent of males in employment and 30 per cent of females indicated in the QNHS that they were working part-time. This full-time/part-time split cannot be compared directly with the corresponding LFS data because of the changes in survey methodology.

For more information contact Joe Treacy on ext 5305 or Norita Griffin on ext 5422.

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road
Dublin 6
Ireland

Skehard Road
Cork
Ireland

Tel: +353-1 497 7144
Fax: +353-1 497 2360

Tel: +353-21 359000
Fax: +353-21 359164

LoCall: 1890 313 414

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: <http://www.cso.ie>

Director General: Donal Murphy

Enquiries:

Labour Market Statistics
Queries and Sales

Labour Market Section, ext 5490
Information Section, ext 5032
information@cso.ie

Diskette Service

Databank, ext 5301/5302
databank@cso.ie

© Central Statistics Office

The contents of this release may be quoted provided the source is given clearly and accurately. Reproduction for own or internal use is permitted.

20 per cent fall in unemployment

The number of persons unemployed fell by 32,000 to 126,600 – a fall of more than a fifth – in the year to March-May 1998. The number of males unemployed fell by over 18,000 and the number of females by 14,000.

Overall, the labour force (employed plus unemployed) grew by 62,000. It is estimated that the increase of 54,500 in the population aged 15 or over contributed 30,000 to the labour force growth. The remainder reflects higher labour force participation by both males and females. *See Table 1.*

ILO Unemployment Rate - April



Unemployment rate under 8 per cent

The rapid rise in the labour force, combined with the fall in the numbers unemployed, led to a substantial fall in the ILO unemployment rate: from 10.3% in April 1997 to 7.8% in March-May 1998. The rate for males fell from 10.4% to 8.1% while the rate for females fell more sharply, from 10.3% to 7.4%. *See Tables 1 and 8.*

The number of persons unemployed for one year or longer fell by almost 23,000 to 63,500. The long-term unemployment rate fell accordingly from 5.6% to 3.9%. *See Tables 6 and 8.*

Both the level and rate of unemployment are heavily influenced by seasonal factors. However, as for the employment figures, it will not be possible to estimate the impact of seasonality in an accurate way until a number of years of quarterly results are available.

Service sector contributes most to employment growth

The numbers employed in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing fell by over 5,000 in the year, continuing previous trends. Industry saw an increase of more than 10,000 and Building and Construction employment was over 25,000 higher than in 1997.

The underlying growth in employment in the Services sector is put at over 60,000, representing around two thirds of the total increase in employment. This increase takes account of the adjustment to the recorded employment change described on page one. *See Table 2.*

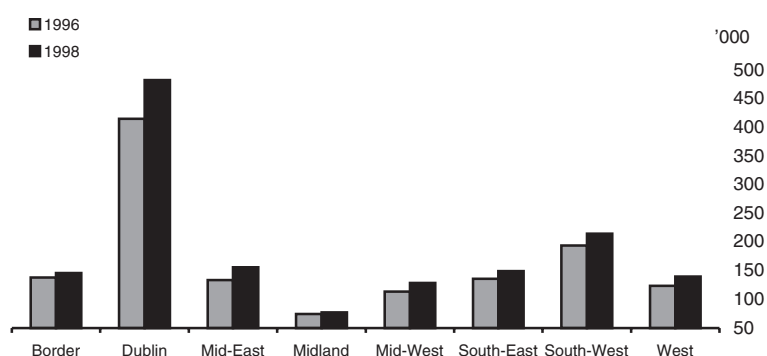
There was very little change in employment in Public Administration, Defence, Education and Health. However, the increases in private sector services - most notably Financial and Other Business Services - was substantial. Some of the observed increase in this sector is, however, due to better classification of workers following the introduction in the QNHS of direct coding to the NACE activity classification. *For more information, see Background Notes.*

Non-agricultural private sector employment is now estimated to be over one million and to have grown by a quarter since 1995. These figures are obtained by deducting from total employment the numbers engaged in agriculture plus those employed in the public sector or on State-sponsored schemes. With agricultural employment continuing to decline and public sector numbers largely unchanged, all the employment growth has effectively occurred in the non-agricultural private sector. *See Table 13.*

Eastern regions account for half of employment growth

Dublin and the Mid-East regions accounted for over half the growth in the numbers recorded as employed, between 1996 and 1998. The regions with the smallest employment growth in the two year period were the Border and Midland regions. *See Table 3.*

Regional employment: 1996-1998



Labour supply indicators fall steeply

Table 10 contains three percentage indicators of potential labour supply which take into account, in addition to the ILO unemployed, other groups outside the labour force who indicate some interest in obtaining work. These indicators fell more steeply than the unemployment rate between April 1997 and March-May 1998, suggesting a tightening of labour supply.

Student numbers up on 1997

The number of students, as measured using the self-classification Principal Economic Status (PES) question, rose by about 9,000 to 366,600 in March-May 1998. Over 10% of students indicated that they were in employment, mostly in part-time jobs, in March-May 1998. *See Tables 11 and 12.*

The numbers working in the home fell by almost 11,000 in the year while the number of retired persons rose by 9,000. *See Table 11.*

Comparing the LFS and the QNHS

Seasonal movements in the labour force are now being measured for the first time as the QNHS is carried out throughout the year. Interviewing is being done using laptop computers rather than paper questionnaires and this has required the reformulation of some questions. Simultaneously, the opportunity was taken to improve the questionnaire. On the basis of the information available to date it is now assessed that:

- Refinements in the questions on involvement in the labour force have resulted in an additional 20,000 persons being recorded as part of the labour force in each of the QNHS quarters. Approximately 8,000 of the adjustment is accounted for by male workers and 12,000 by females. The adjustment is confined almost exclusively to part-time workers in the services sector.
- Changes in the questions on full-time versus part-time working have increased the proportion indicating that their job is part-time.
- Seasonal movements in the labour force have no impact on the comparability of the March-May 1998 QNHS results with the April 1997 LFS. Seasonal factors are tentatively estimated to have contributed 50,000 to the observed increase in the labour force between April and September-November 1997. A much smaller seasonal adjustment is indicated for the December-February quarter.

Further details are given in the Background Notes.

Table 1 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by Sex and ILO Economic Status

' 000

ILO Economic Status	Labour Force Survey		QNHS 1997/1998		
	April 1996	April 1997	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May
Males					
In Labour Force	925.1	937.3	981.2	978.2	978.7
In Employment :	815.2	840.3	881.4	894.5	899.9
full-time	774.8	794.9	810.7	824.2	829.4
part-time :	40.4	45.4	70.6	70.3	70.4
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	28.3	33.8	58.2	61.3	64.8
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	12.1	11.6	12.4	9.0	5.6
Unemployed :	109.8	97.1	99.8	83.7	78.8
seeking full-time work	106.4	94.5	93.6	80.2	75.8
seeking part-time work	3.4	2.6	6.2	3.5	3.0
Not in Labour Force	433.7	445.8	413.7	425.4	431.7
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	10.8	15.0	7.8	10.2	11.0
Others	422.9	430.8	405.9	415.2	420.7
Total males aged 15 or over	1,358.8	1,383.1	1,394.9	1,403.6	1,410.3
Unemployment rate %	11.9	10.4	10.2	8.6	8.1
Participation rate %	68.1	67.8	70.3	69.7	69.4
Females					
In Labour Force	582.4	601.7	662.6	643.4	642.4
In Employment :	513.3	539.7	590.9	588.5	594.6
full-time	401.6	415.2	408.0	408.5	415.4
part-time :	111.6	124.6	182.8	180.0	179.2
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	100.3	114.4	169.8	170.9	174.5
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	11.3	10.2	13.0	9.0	4.7
Unemployed :	69.1	62.0	71.7	54.9	47.8
seeking full-time work	44.8	42.1	38.6	33.0	29.6
seeking part-time work	24.3	19.9	33.1	21.9	18.2
Not in Labour Force	825.5	830.3	782.3	809.1	816.9
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	9.4	10.3	9.9	9.0	8.6
Others	816.1	820.1	772.4	800.2	808.3
Total females aged 15 or over	1,407.9	1,432.0	1,444.9	1,452.6	1,459.3
Unemployment rate %	11.9	10.3	10.8	8.5	7.4
Participation rate %	41.4	42.0	45.9	44.3	44.0
All Persons					
In Labour Force	1,507.5	1,539.0	1,643.9	1,621.6	1,621.1
In Employment :	1,328.5	1,379.9	1,472.3	1,483.1	1,494.5
full-time	1,176.4	1,210.0	1,218.8	1,232.7	1,244.9
part-time :	152.1	169.9	253.5	250.3	249.6
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	128.6	148.1	228.0	232.2	239.4
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	23.5	21.8	25.4	18.1	10.3
Unemployed :	179.0	159.0	171.6	138.6	126.6
seeking full-time work	151.3	136.6	132.3	113.1	105.4
seeking part-time work	27.7	22.4	39.3	25.4	21.2
Not in Labour Force	1,259.2	1,276.1	1,196.1	1,234.5	1,248.5
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	20.2	25.2	17.7	19.2	19.5
Others	1,239.0	1,250.9	1,178.4	1,215.3	1,229.0
Total persons aged 15 or over	2,766.7	2,815.1	2,839.8	2,856.2	2,869.6
Unemployment rate %	11.9	10.3	10.4	8.5	7.8
Participation rate %	54.5	54.7	57.9	56.8	56.5

* See Background Notes.

Table 2 Persons in employment (ILO) classified by Sex and NACE Economic Sector

¹ 000

Economic Sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Labour Force Survey		QNHS 1997/1998		
	April 1996	April 1997	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May
Males					
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	124.6	125.5	117.9	119.1	119.5
C-E Other production industries	188.3	200.4	203.4	206.4	208.5
F Construction	94.9	104.4	125.7	128.8	129.5
G Wholesale and retail trade	107.0	108.8	113.3	116.2	115.3
H Hotels and restaurants	32.2	32.7	36.5	39.5	39.4
I Transport, storage and communication	48.4	51.4	56.7	59.4	59.9
J-K Financial and other business services	70.9	71.4	80.4	81.3	81.6
L Public administration and defence	46.2	45.0	43.0	43.8	45.0
M-N Education and health	63.2	60.4	61.8	61.1	59.8
O Other services	39.7	40.4	42.7	39.0	41.3
Total males	815.2	840.3	881.4	894.5	899.9
Females					
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	16.8	16.1	16.9	15.9	16.5
C-E Other production industries	78.2	88.1	96.2	94.7	92.8
F Construction	5.9	6.0	7.0	6.8	6.8
G Wholesale and retail trade	77.0	84.5	90.7	93.4	92.3
H Hotels and restaurants	41.3	43.7	52.5	50.5	53.7
I Transport, storage and communication	12.8	13.6	19.4	19.7	20.2
J-K Financial and other business services	64.4	63.3	80.2	80.9	83.9
L Public administration and defence	29.4	27.2	25.2	26.2	27.4
M-N Education and health	146.7	152.4	153.7	153.3	153.1
O Other services	40.7	44.8	49.0	47.3	48.0
Total females	513.3	539.7	590.9	588.6	594.6
All persons					
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	141.4	141.5	134.8	135.0	136.0
C-E Other production industries	266.5	288.5	299.6	301.0	301.3
F Construction	100.8	110.4	132.7	135.5	136.3
G Wholesale and retail trade	184.1	193.3	204.0	209.6	207.6
H Hotels and restaurants	73.5	76.4	89.0	89.9	93.1
I Transport, storage and communication	61.2	65.0	76.2	79.0	80.2
J-K Financial and other business services	135.2	134.7	160.7	162.2	165.5
L Public administration and defence	75.6	72.2	68.2	70.0	72.5
M-N Education and health	209.9	212.9	215.5	214.4	212.8
O Other services	80.4	85.1	91.7	86.3	89.3
Total persons	1,328.5	1,379.9	1,472.2	1,483.1	1,494.5

Table 3 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by Regional Authority¹ and ILO Economic Status

ILO Economic Status		In Employment	Unemployed	In Labour Force	Unemployment Rate	Participation Rate
		000	000	000	%	%
Border						
	April 1996	138.0	24.6	162.6	15.1	53.1
	April 1997	141.2	18.9	160.2	11.8	52.1
	Sep-Nov 1997	143.9	21.9	165.8	13.2	53.6
	Dec-Feb 1998	142.6	19.9	162.5	12.3	52.3
	Mar-May 1998	145.9	16.9	162.7	10.4	52.2
Dublin						
	April 1996	415.1	58.3	473.4	12.3	57.3
	April 1997	430.8	53.8	484.5	11.1	57.4
	Sep-Nov 1997	478.2	56.8	534.9	10.6	62.6
	Dec-Feb 1998	482.0	40.2	522.1	7.7	61.0
	Mar-May 1998	482.6	37.4	520.0	7.2	60.5
Mid-East						
	April 1996	133.6	15.4	149.0	10.4	57.9
	April 1997	142.7	13.1	155.8	8.4	57.6
	Sep-Nov 1997	151.7	13.9	165.6	8.4	60.6
	Dec-Feb 1998	151.9	13.0	164.9	7.9	59.6
	Mar-May 1998	156.2	11.9	168.1	7.1	60.3
Midland						
	April 1996	74.6	8.0	82.6	9.7	53.8
	April 1997	77.4	8.1	85.5	9.5	55.0
	Sep-Nov 1997	75.4	8.1	83.5	9.7	53.9
	Dec-Feb 1998	75.0	7.8	82.7	9.4	52.6
	Mar-May 1998	77.2	6.7	84.0	8.0	53.2
Mid-West						
	April 1996	113.8	11.2	125.0	9.0	51.8
	April 1997	114.7	12.8	127.5	10.0	52.5
	Sep-Nov 1997	125.9	12.0	138.0	8.7	56.0
	Dec-Feb 1998	128.9	9.8	138.7	7.1	56.2
	Mar-May 1998	129.0	9.5	138.5	6.9	55.8
South-East						
	April 1996	135.8	19.4	155.2	12.5	52.5
	April 1997	139.6	17.9	157.4	11.3	52.7
	Sep-Nov 1997	147.5	19.2	166.6	11.5	55.4
	Dec-Feb 1998	150.6	16.2	166.8	9.7	55.0
	Mar-May 1998	149.3	16.1	165.4	9.7	54.3
South-West						
	April 1996	194.1	26.0	220.0	11.8	52.6
	April 1997	200.9	20.2	221.1	9.1	52.5
	Sep-Nov 1997	211.8	24.6	236.3	10.4	55.8
	Dec-Feb 1998	213.1	20.2	233.2	8.7	54.8
	Mar-May 1998	214.5	18.3	232.8	7.9	54.5
West						
	April 1996	123.6	16.0	139.6	11.5	52.1
	April 1997	132.7	14.3	147.0	9.7	53.4
	Sep-Nov 1997	137.9	15.1	153.0	9.9	55.2
	Dec-Feb 1998	139.1	11.5	150.6	7.6	53.7
	Mar-May 1998	139.9	9.8	149.7	6.6	53.1
Total						
	April 1996	1,328.5	179.0	1,507.5	11.9	54.5
	April 1997	1,379.9	159.0	1,539.0	10.3	54.7
	Sep-Nov 1997	1,472.3	171.6	1,643.9	10.4	57.9
	Dec-Feb 1998	1,483.1	138.6	1,621.6	8.5	56.8
	Mar-May 1998	1,494.5	126.6	1,621.1	7.8	56.5

¹ See Background Notes

Table 4 Labour Force Participation Rates (ILO) classified by Sex, Age Group and Marital Status, March - May, 1998

%

Marital Status	Age Group							Total	
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64		65+
Males									
Single	31.1	76.6	91.1	85.1	74.1	60.9	45.9	21.4	63.7
Married	32.1	90.9	96.5	95.7	90.1	74.6	54.9	14.8	76.8
Separated or divorced	*	*	90.7	87.0	79.2	62.2	47.0	14.1	73.2
Widowed	*	*	90.2	92.2	71.4	62.5	45.4	7.5	23.4
Total males	31.1	76.8	93.3	93.4	87.1	71.9	52.7	14.9	69.4
Females									
Single	22.9	69.6	85.2	80.3	70.9	45.8	29.0	5.4	54.3
Married	40.6	59.8	64.3	55.7	42.9	29.1	15.4	3.0	43.2
Separated or divorced	*	*	62.9	62.3	55.9	41.4	21.1	7.5	54.1
Widowed	*	*	50.8	58.0	47.2	25.9	19.2	2.2	9.1
Total females	22.9	69.0	73.7	59.4	46.4	30.7	17.7	3.0	44.0
All persons									
Single	27.1	73.2	88.5	83.1	72.9	55.9	39.3	13.7	59.4
Married	36.2	67.7	78.5	75.3	66.8	52.4	36.0	9.8	60.0
Separated or divorced	*	*	69.4	71.4	64.3	50.0	35.2	10.8	61.1
Widowed	*	*	62.4	70.3	53.4	34.0	24.9	3.2	12.1
Total persons	27.1	73.0	83.4	76.2	67.0	51.5	35.1	8.1	56.5

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 5 Unemployment Rates (ILO) classified by Sex and Age Group

%

Survey	Age Group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
LFS April 1996									
Males	23.8	17.5	11.9	10.6	11.0	7.7	5.6	2.9	11.9
Females	27.1	13.8	9.9	12.0	10.6	7.8	4.6	12.4	11.9
Total persons	25.2	15.8	11.0	11.1	10.9	7.7	5.4	5.0	11.9
LFS April 1997									
Males	20.2	15.7	10.1	9.4	9.4	7.3	5.1	1.3	10.4
Females	23.4	12.5	9.5	9.0	9.4	5.6	4.0	6.3	10.3
Total persons	21.5	14.2	9.8	9.2	9.4	6.8	4.8	2.4	10.3
QNHS Mar-May 1998									
Males	13.3	11.3	7.6	7.3	8.3	6.0	4.3	0.9	8.1
Females	15.8	9.3	6.2	6.4	7.8	5.5	2.6	0.5	7.4
Total persons	14.3	10.4	7.0	7.0	8.2	5.9	3.9	0.8	7.8

Table 6 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by Sex and Duration of Unemployment (ILO)

'000

Duration	Labour Force Survey		QNHS 1997/1998		
	April 1996	April 1997	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May
Males					
Less than 1 year	38.9	35.1	39.4	32.8	32.2
1 year and over	69.2	58.8	60.3	50.7	46.3
Not stated	1.7	3.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
Total males	109.9	97.1	99.8	83.7	78.8
Females					
Less than 1 year	33.0	31.9	41.7	33.0	30.5
1 year and over	34.0	27.5	29.9	21.9	17.2
Not stated	2.1	2.6	0.2	0.0	0.1
Total females	69.1	62.0	71.7	54.9	47.8
All persons					
Less than 1 year	71.8	67.1	81.1	65.8	62.6
1 year and over	103.3	86.3	90.2	72.6	63.5
Not stated	3.9	5.7	0.3	0.3	0.5
Total persons	179.0	159.0	171.6	138.6	126.6

Table 7 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by Sex, Age Group and Duration of Unemployment (ILO)

'000

Duration	LFS April 1997				QNHS Mar-May 1998			
	Age Group			Total	Age Group			Total
	15-24	25-44	45 or over		15-24	25-44	45 or over	
Males								
Less than 1 year	13.1	15.5	6.6	35.1	12.3	13.5	6.4	32.2
1 year and over	12.4	29.6	16.9	58.8	8.5	22.8	15.0	46.3
Not stated	1.8	1.2	0.2	3.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Total males	27.2	46.2	23.6	97.1	20.9	36.4	21.5	78.8
Females								
Less than 1 year	11.9	15.6	4.4	31.9	11.6	14.0	4.9	30.5
1 year and over	6.6	15.2	5.8	27.5	4.3	8.3	4.7	17.2
Not stated	1.5	0.4	0.6	2.6	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total females	20.0	31.2	10.8	62.0	15.9	22.3	9.6	47.8
All persons								
Less than 1 year	25.0	31.1	11.0	67.1	23.9	27.4	11.3	62.6
1 year and over	18.9	44.7	22.6	86.3	12.7	31.1	19.7	63.5
Not stated	3.3	1.6	0.8	5.7	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5
Total persons	47.2	77.4	34.4	159.0	36.7	58.8	31.1	126.6

Table 8 Labour Force, unemployed and long-term unemployed (ILO)

Period	Labour Force	Unemployed	<i>of which</i> Long Term Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Long-term Unemployment Rate
	000	000	000	%	%
April 1988	1,327.7	217.0	137.8	16.3	10.4
April 1989	1,307.8	196.8	128.0	15.0	9.8
April 1990	1,332.1	172.4	110.2	12.9	8.3
April 1991	1,354.4	198.5	119.7	14.7	8.8
April 1992	1,371.8	206.6	116.5	15.1	8.5
April 1993	1,403.2	220.1	125.4	15.7	8.9
April 1994	1,431.6	211.0	128.2	14.7	9.0
April 1995	1,459.2	177.4	103.3	12.2	7.1
April 1996	1,507.5	179.0	103.3	11.9	6.9
April 1997	1,539.0	159.0	86.3	10.3	5.6
Sep-Nov 1997	1,643.9	171.6	90.2	10.4	5.5
Dec-Feb 1998	1,621.6	138.6	72.6	8.5	4.5
Mar-May 1998	1,621.1	126.6	63.5	7.8	3.9

Table 9 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by detailed ILO Economic Status

¹ 000

ILO Economic Status	Labour Force Survey							QNHS 1997/1998		
	April 1991	April 1992	April 1993	April 1994	April 1995	April 1996	April 1997	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May
In Labour Force	1,354.4	1,371.8	1,403.2	1,431.6	1,459.2	1,507.5	1,539.0	1,643.9	1,621.6	1,621.1
In Employment :	1,155.9	1,165.2	1,183.1	1,220.6	1,281.7	1,328.5	1,379.9	1,472.3	1,483.1	1,494.5
full-time	1,059.9	1,060.8	1,055.7	1,083.2	1,127.8	1,176.4	1,210.0	1,218.8	1,232.7	1,244.9
part-time :	96.0	104.4	127.5	137.4	153.9	152.1	169.9	253.5	250.3	249.6
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	77.4	85.3	103.6	112.5	127.7	128.6	148.1	228.0	232.2	239.4
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	18.6	19.1	23.9	24.9	26.2	23.5	21.8	25.4	18.1	10.3
Unemployed :	198.5	206.6	220.1	211.0	177.4	179.0	159.0	171.6	138.6	126.6
seeking full-time work	173.0	184.8	196.7	186.4	153.5	151.3	136.6	132.3	113.1	105.4
seeking part-time work	25.5	21.8	23.4	24.6	24.0	27.7	22.4	39.3	25.4	21.2
Not in Labour Force	1,230.7	1,251.9	1,253.9	1,255.7	1,264.2	1,259.2	1,276.1	1,196.1	1,234.5	1,248.5
Marginally attached to the Labour Force :	25.7	29.4	32.2	29.7	27.5	20.2	25.2	17.7	19.2	19.5
Discouraged workers	14.6	16.0	20.3	19.1	16.4	13.6	16.9	12.3	14.1	14.1
Passive jobseekers	11.1	13.3	11.9	10.6	11.1	6.6	8.3	5.4	5.1	5.5
Others :	1,205.1	1,222.9	1,221.7	1,226.0	1,236.7	1,239.0	1,250.9	1,178.4	1,215.3	1,229.0
Persons not in education, who want work	63.0	68.9	63.5	61.1	61.3	54.1	71.9	52.0	56.3	58.7
Persons in education, who want work	62.5	67.3	81.1	78.6	74.8	51.3	82.3	30.6	47.2	57.6
All other persons	1,079.5	1,086.2	1,077.0	1,086.2	1,100.7	1,133.6	1,096.6	1,095.7	1,111.9	1,112.7
Total persons aged 15 or over	2,585.1	2,623.7	2,657.1	2,687.3	2,723.4	2,766.7	2,815.1	2,839.8	2,856.2	2,869.6

NOTE : Persons who want work are those who are looking for work but are not available and those who say they want a job but are not looking for work.

Table 10 Indicators of potential labour supply

Period	S1	S2	S3
1988	17.3	21.9	23.2
1989	16.1	20.5	21.7
1990	13.9	18.7	19.8
1991	15.6	19.9	21.2
1992	16.0	20.7	22.0
1993	16.9	21.1	22.7
1994	15.9	19.8	21.5
1995	13.1	17.2	18.9
1996	12.7	16.0	17.5
1997	11.3	15.7	17.0
Sep-Nov 1997	11.1	14.1	15.6
Dec-Feb 1998	9.3	12.6	13.7
Mar-May 1998	8.6	12.1	12.7

%

NOTE : Definitions of indicators by reference to Table 10 :

S1 : Unemployed plus discouraged workers as a percentage of the Labour Force plus discouraged workers.

S2 : Unemployed plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work as a percentage of the Labour Force plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work.

S3 : Unemployed plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work plus underemployed part-time workers as a percentage of the Labour Force plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work.

Table 11 Population aged 15 years and over classified by Principal Economic Status¹

'000

Principal Economic Status	Labour Force Survey		QNHS 1997/1998		
	April 1996	April 1997	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May
Males					
At work	803.5	825.6	852.7	869.1	874.0
Unemployed	138.6	130.6	124.0	114.2	111.3
Student	173.5	176.1	168.4	176.4	178.1
On home duties	8.7	9.2	8.6	8.5	8.0
Retired	177.7	179.5	184.1	185.0	186.8
Others	56.7	62.0	57.2	50.4	52.1
Total males	1,358.8	1,383.1	1,394.9	1,403.6	1,410.3
Females					
At work	493.6	512.8	543.6	546.3	552.7
Unemployed	52.8	48.3	47.8	44.2	43.1
Student	179.5	181.9	175.0	183.4	188.5
On home duties	574.7	588.0	576.6	581.1	578.5
Retired	74.5	66.2	71.3	69.2	68.0
Others	32.9	34.8	30.6	28.5	28.5
Total females	1,407.9	1,432.0	1,444.9	1,452.6	1,459.3
All Persons					
At work	1,297.2	1,338.4	1,396.3	1,415.4	1,426.7
Unemployed	191.3	178.9	171.7	158.4	154.5
Student	353.0	358.0	343.4	359.8	366.6
On home duties	583.4	597.2	585.2	589.5	586.5
Retired	252.2	245.8	255.3	254.2	254.8
Others	89.6	96.7	87.8	78.9	80.6
Total persons	2,766.7	2,815.1	2,839.8	2,856.2	2,869.6

¹ Classification based on respondent's own subjective assessment, see Background Notes.

Table 12 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by ILO Economic Status and by Principal Economic Status, March - May, 1998

'000

ILO Economic Status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
Males							
In Employment :	871.2	4.0	19.6	0.3	2.8	1.9	899.9
full-time	824.0	2.1	1.4	0.1	0.5	1.3	829.4
part-time :	47.2	1.9	18.2	0.2	2.4	0.6	70.4
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	42.7	1.0	18.0	0.2	2.3	0.6	64.8
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	4.4	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6
Unemployed :	0.8	73.4	2.1	0.5	1.1	0.9	78.8
seeking full-time work	0.8	72.1	1.2	0.3	0.6	0.8	75.8
seeking part-time work	0.0	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.1	3.0
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	0.7	8.6	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.3	11.0
Others	1.3	25.3	156.0	7.0	182.1	49.0	420.7
Total males aged 15 or over	874.0	111.3	178.1	8.0	186.8	52.1	1,410.3
Females							
In Employment :	550.1	1.6	20.5	19.2	0.4	2.8	594.6
full-time	408.0	0.7	1.4	3.3	0.1	2.0	415.4
part-time :	142.1	0.9	19.1	16.0	0.4	0.8	179.2
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	138.3	0.7	18.9	15.5	0.4	0.8	174.5
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	3.8	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	4.7
Unemployed :	0.2	25.7	2.5	18.9	0.2	0.3	47.8
seeking full-time work	0.1	21.6	1.3	6.2	0.1	0.3	29.6
seeking part-time work	0.0	4.1	1.2	12.7	0.1	0.1	18.2
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	0.9	2.2	0.4	4.5	0.3	0.3	8.6
Others	1.5	13.5	165.1	535.9	67.1	25.1	808.3
Total females aged 15 or over	552.7	43.1	188.5	578.5	68.0	28.5	1,459.3
All Persons							
In Employment :	1,421.3	5.6	40.1	19.6	3.3	4.7	1,494.5
full-time	1,232.1	2.7	2.9	3.4	0.5	3.3	1,244.9
part-time :	189.2	2.9	37.2	16.2	2.7	1.4	249.6
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	181.0	1.7	36.9	15.7	2.7	1.4	239.4
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	8.2	1.2	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	10.3
Unemployed :	1.0	99.2	4.5	19.4	1.3	1.3	126.6
seeking full-time work	0.9	93.7	2.5	6.5	0.7	1.1	105.4
seeking part-time work	0.1	5.4	2.0	13.0	0.6	0.1	21.2
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	1.6	10.9	0.9	4.6	1.1	0.5	19.5
Others	2.8	38.9	321.2	542.9	249.2	74.1	1,229.0
Total persons aged 15 or over	1,426.7	154.5	366.6	586.5	254.8	80.6	2,869.6

Table 13 Total employment and private sector employment (ILO)

' 000

	Labour Force Survey										QNHS 1997/1998		
	April 1988	April 1989	April 1990	April 1991	April 1992	April 1993	April 1994	April 1995	April 1996	April 1997	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May
1. Total employment (ILO)	1,111	1,111	1,160	1,156	1,165	1,183	1,221	1,282	1,329	1,380	1,472	1,483	1,495
2. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	171	168	175	159	157	150	147	149	141	142	135	135	136
3. Non-agricultural employment (1-2)	940	943	985	997	1,008	1,033	1,074	1,133	1,188	1,238	1,337	1,348	1,359
4. State-sponsored employment schemes *	18	13	16	14	16	17	31	41	40	41	40	40	41
5. Non-agricultural employment, excluding schemes (3-4)	922	930	969	983	992	1,016	1,043	1,092	1,148	1,197	1,297	1,308	1,318
6. Public sector employment *	295	286	287	288	288	289	291	294	301	297	296	301	300
7. Private sector employment (5-6)	627	644	682	695	704	727	752	798	847	900	1,001	1,007	1,018

* Based on administrative data.

Background Notes

Purpose of Survey	The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) began in September 1997, replacing the annual April Labour Force Survey (LFS). The purpose of the survey is the production of quarterly labour force estimates and occasional reports on special social topics. The survey meets the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 577/98, adopted in March, which requires the introduction of quarterly labour force surveys in EU Member States.
Reference Period	Information is collected continuously throughout the year, with 3,000 households surveyed each week to give a total sample of 39,000 households in each quarter. The first results, for the three months September-November 1997, were published in May 1998. This release contains results for December-February 1997/98 and for March-May 1998.
Data Collection	Information is collected on laptop computers, using computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) software.
Sample design	<p>A two-stage sample design is used. This comprises a first stage sample of 2,600 blocks (or small areas) selected at county level to proportionately represent eight strata reflecting population density. Each block was selected to contain, on average, 75 dwellings and the sample of blocks is fixed for a period of about five years. In the second stage of sampling, 15 households are surveyed in each block to give a total quarterly sample of 39,000 households.</p> <p>Households are asked to take part in the survey for five consecutive quarters and are then replaced by other households in the same block. Thus, one fifth of the households in the survey are replaced each quarter and the QNHS sample involves an overlap of 80% between consecutive quarters and 20% between the same quarter in consecutive years.</p> <p>The survey results are weighted to agree with population estimates broken down by age, sex and region. The population estimates for April 1998 are published in a separate release.</p>
ILO Labour Force Classification	<p>The primary classification used for the QNHS results is the ILO labour force classification. Labour Force Survey data on this basis have been published since 1988. The ILO classification distinguishes the following main subgroups of the population aged 15 or over:</p> <p>In Employment: Persons who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business and all persons who had a job but were not at work because of illness, holidays etc. in the week</p> <p>Unemployed: Persons who, in the week before the survey, were without work and available for work and had taken specific steps, in the preceding four weeks, to find work.</p> <p>Inactive Population (not in labour force): All other persons.</p> <p>The labour force comprises persons employed plus unemployed.</p>
Participation and Unemployment Rates	The rates given in this release are based on the ILO classification. The Participation Rate is the number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 or over. The Unemployment Rate is the number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.
Duration of Unemployment	The duration of unemployment is the length of time since a person last had a job or began looking for work, whichever is more recent. The long-term unemployment rate is the number of persons unemployed for one year or more expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.

Underemployment

In the LFS and in the first two quarters of the QNHS, a person who had a part-time job was classified as underemployed if he/she was looking and available for another part-time job or a full-time job.

From the March-May 1998 quarter, the category "underemployed" is based on a new question relating to the respondent's satisfaction with his/her current hours. Thus, a respondent who works in a part-time job is classified as "underemployed" if he/she is looking and available for another job and has explicitly stated that the hours worked currently are "two few".

This change has affected comparability (but only within the "At work, Part-time" category) between the December-February 1997/98 and the March-May 1998 quarters.

Principal Economic Status Classification

Results are also available using the Principal Economic Status (PES) classification which was used in the Labour Force Survey and the Census of Population. The PES classification is based on a single question in which respondents are asked what is their usual situation with regard to employment and given the following response categories:

- At work
- Unemployed
- Student
- Engaged on home duties
- Retired
- Other.

This PES question is asked before the sequence of questions used to derive ILO status.

NACE Industrial Classification

The QNHS sectoral employment figures are based on the EU NACE classification as defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3037/90. Ten NACE sub-categories are distinguished in Table 2 of this release. About half of these categories correspond exactly or very closely with the sectoral breakdown formerly used in the LFS. However, there are some discontinuities between the old and new series. The CSO can provide tables showing the correspondence between the two classifications, using LFS data, to interested users.

Composition of Regional Authority Areas

The geographical sub-divisions used are based on eight Regional Authorities established under the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order, 1993 which came into operation on 1 January, 1994

Border	Cavan Donegal Leitrim Louth Monaghan Sligo	Dublin	Dublin Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Fingal South Dublin
Mid-East	Kildare Meath Wicklow	Midland	Laoighis Longford Offaly Westmeath
Mid-West	Clare Limerick County Borough Limerick County Tipperary North Riding	South-East	Carlow Kilkenny Tipperary South Riding Waterford County Borough Waterford County Wexford
South-West	Cork County Borough Cork County Kerry	West	Galway County Borough Galway County Mayo Roscommon

NESF Recommendations on Unemployment Statistics

In May 1997, the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) published its report on unemployment statistics (Forum Report No. 13) which included a range of recommendations on unemployment statistics. The CSO broadly supported the recommendations and, using them as a basis, proposed a new form of presentation for labour force statistics to the *Strategy Group on Employment and Unemployment (SGEU)*. The Committee endorsed the CSO's proposal and it was agreed by Government in December, 1997.

The new presentation is reflected in the prominence now given to the ILO-based measures of employment and unemployment and in the introduction of a number of new summary labour market indicators.

Labour Supply Indicators

Table 10 contains three indicators of potential labour supply. These indicators take into account, in addition to the unemployed, groups outside the labour force who have indicated some interest in obtaining a job. These extra groups include discouraged workers, (who are not looking for work as they believe they are not qualified or that no work is available), and other groups who want work but do not meet all the ILO criteria to be classified as unemployed. Persons who indicated that they were not available or not looking for work because they were in education were not included in the calculation of any of these new indicators. The indicators are available back to 1988, when the ILO classification was first included in LFS reports.

A further indicator, the percentage of households with children under 15 which have no person in employment, has been calculated for the years 1988 to 1997 and is available on request. This indicator will be published in due course in conjunction with a comprehensive analysis of quarterly household and family statistics from the QNHS.

Comparing the LFS and the QNHS

The LFS was conducted each year in April and involved the completion of a written questionnaire in each of the sample households. The QNHS, on the other hand, involves continuous surveying (of 3,000 households each week) so that the results reflect the average situation over the course of three months. The LFS paper questionnaires have been replaced by laptop computers, allowing some key questions (such as existence of a job in the week before the survey, full-time versus part-time jobs) to be refined and improved. The main factors affecting comparability of the two surveys are:

- Seasonal effects on numbers employed and unemployed
- The change from a point-in-time to a continuous survey (survey reference period)
- Changes in the questionnaire, which has increased the observed level of labour force participation, particularly in part-time jobs.

The changes made to the questionnaire and their effect on the survey results are described below.

Changes to questions on Employment

The LFS question relating to ILO employment was a multiple choice question about the person's employment situation last week in which one of the response categories was "*Worked for at least 1 hour...*". This was replaced in the QNHS by the following three direct questions:

"In the week ending Sunday dd/mm/yyyy did you do any work for payment or profit, even if it was for one hour?"

"Even though you did not do paid work in the week ending dd/mm/yyyy, did you have a job or business from which you were away and to which you expect to return?"

"Or, did you do any work for a business owned by another family member?"

The second and third questions were only asked if the previous answer was "*No*". The main effect of these questions has been to elicit more information about part-time employment, so that the estimates of part-time employment are higher in the QNHS than in the LFS.

Information on full-time and part-time jobs is also collected using a more direct approach in the QNHS. The relevant LFS question distinguished four response categories, relating to occasional and regular as well as to full-time and part-time jobs. These concepts are now asked separately and the question on full-time or part-time work is as follows:

"Thinking about the hours of work in the job, would you describe it as full-time or part-time".

This change has also increased the proportion of respondents indicating part-time involvement in the workforce. The effect of these changes is to cause a once-off discontinuity between the LFS and QNHS results.

Effect of questionnaire changes

The Principal Economic status (PES) results, which are broadly comparable between the LFS and QNHS, showed an annual increase of 88,300 in the At Work category between 1997 and 1998. This is below the increase of 114,600 observed in the ILO numbers in employment, which included almost 20,000 more students and about 5,000 more women working in the home who also had a job. *See Tables 11 and 12.* The CSO is attributing 20,000 of the observed annual increase in ILO employment to the improved coverage of part-time employment, giving an underlying change for the year of 95,000. Breaking this down for males and females, male employment is estimated to have increased by 52,000 and female employment by 43,000.

Seasonality

Seasonal factors do not affect the comparison between April 1997 and March-May 1998. However, they do affect the sub-annual comparisons.

Seasonal factors were most pronounced in the September-November 1997 quarter when ILO employment and unemployment were both at a high level relative to the April situation. The number of students was lower in that quarter, in line with expectations, and the numbers working in the home showed a slight seasonal dip. In the winter quarter, the ILO labour force fell mainly because fewer people were available and looking for work.

It will not be possible to accurately calculate seasonal factors until the survey has been conducted for a number of years. Seasonal effects were originally estimated to have contributed between 10,000 and 20,000 to the increase in the labour force observed between April and September-November 1997. The impact of seasonal factors in this six-month period is now considered to have been higher at about 50,000, while the impact of questionnaire changes, at 20,000, is lower than previously estimated. The overall impact on trends between April and September-November 1997 is about the same as originally estimated, with an underlying labour force increase of about 30,000 to 40,000 in the six months. The underlying labour force growth was therefore relatively uniform throughout the year.