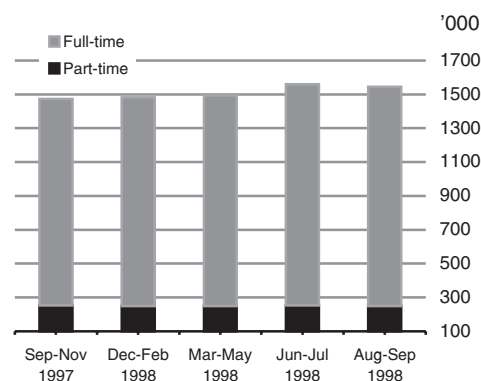


Based on the 1996 Census of Population figures
For figures based on the 2002 Census of Population see the
revised QNHS series.

13 May 1999

Employment, full-time and part-time



Quarterly National Household Survey Third and Fourth Quarters 1998

ILO Labour Force

	'000		
	In Employment	Unemployed	Labour Force
Sep-Nov 1997	1,472.3	171.6	1,643.9
Dec-Feb 1998	1,483.1	138.6	1,621.6
Mar-May 1998	1,494.5	126.6	1,621.1
Jun-Aug 1998	1,559.7	128.9	1,688.6
Sep-Nov 1998	1,544.7	106.0	1,650.7

Numbers at work exceed 1.5 million

The latest figures from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) show that the numbers at work passed the 1.5 million mark in the second half of last year. The number of persons in employment reached 1.56 million in the third quarter (i.e. June-August) of 1998, an increase of 65,000 on the previous quarter. A considerable proportion of the quarterly rise was due to seasonal employment over the summer and the numbers at work subsequently fell back somewhat to 1.545 million in the fourth quarter. *See Table 1.*

These results allow the first year-on-year comparisons of QNHS results to be made. The employment results for the fourth quarter of 1998 represent an increase of 72,000 on the corresponding quarter in 1997. The number of males in employment increased by 47,000, and females by 25,000, over the year.

Almost all the annual increase in employment was accounted for by the rise in the number of full-time workers. The overall number of part-time workers, on the other hand, remained relatively stable at around 250,000. Within this category, just 7,500 part-time workers were underemployed in the fourth quarter of 1998. Even allowing for changes in the relevant QNHS questions, this represents a large annual decrease in the number of persons classified as underemployed, with a corresponding increase in the numbers not underemployed. *See Table 1 and Background Notes.*

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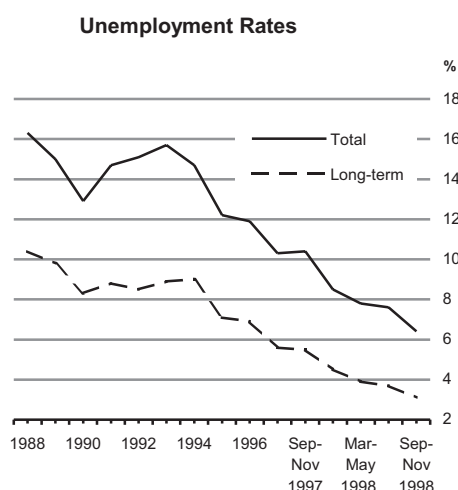
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Sharp decline in unemployment

The number of persons unemployed, as measured by the ILO classification system, fell by over 65,000 (to 106,000) in the year to September-November 1998. The number of unemployed males fell by almost 34,000 and the number of females by 32,000 over the year.

A substantial share of the overall decline in unemployment was due to the fall of 23,000 in the number of persons (mainly women) who were recorded as seeking part-time work. The QNHS unemployment figures for the fourth quarter of 1997 were, however, a lot higher than the April 1997 LFS and subsequent QNHS results. *See Table 1.*



Unemployment rate of 6.4% at end of 1998

The quarterly figures reflect a variety of seasonal movements in labour supply including, in particular, higher participation by school leavers and students in the labour market in the third quarter.

Between the second and third quarters of 1998, the number of persons unemployed (i.e. available and actively looking for work) increased very slightly but the unemployment rate fell marginally, from 7.8% to 7.6%, due to the overall larger labour force. However, this was followed by a substantial fall, both in the number and rate, in the fourth quarter. The unemployment rate in September-November 1998 was 6.4%. *See Table 8.*

The unemployment rate was lowest in the Mid-East region (4.8%) and highest in the Border (8.9%) and South East regions (8.7%). *See Table 3.*

Duration of unemployment

In spring of 1998, the number of persons unemployed was split fairly evenly between long-term and short-term unemployment. In the summer quarter, there was a seasonal increase in the number of persons looking for work and this led to an increase in the numbers unemployed for less than a year, followed by a decrease in the following quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the number of long-term unemployed was 51,700, compared with 53,800 persons unemployed for a year or less. The long-term unemployed now represent 3.1% of the labour force. *See Tables 6 and 8.*

Participation by younger persons in summer jobs

In the third quarter of 1998 over 40% of males aged 15-19 and 32.5% of females in this age group were in the labour force. These participation rates were approximately 10% higher than those observed in the other quarters. The rates for those aged 20-24 were some 5 to 8% higher during the summer months. *See Tables 4a and 4b.*

Similarly, for students, there is a seasonal pattern of labour force participation. In the summer quarter, one fifth of students (or 68,800) were in employment. This fell back to 40,000 in quarter four of 1998. *See Tables 12a and 12b.*

Little or no seasonality can be detected in the participation rates for the age groups above 25 from the data available to-date. Thus workers under 25 years of age account for almost all of the seasonal expansion in the workforce during the summer months.

Services sector continues to be main growth area

The services sector has continued to provide most of the increase in employment, most notably in business-related services; transport, communication and storage; the wholesale and retail trade; and catering. The latter two sectors also reached seasonal peak levels in the summer months. Apart from the services sector, construction also showed strong growth between the fourth quarters of 1997 and 1998. There was relatively little change in employment levels in public administration, health and education. *See Table 2.*

Employment in the non-agricultural private sector is estimated to have grown by 66,000 in the year to September-November 1998. This accounts for the vast majority of employment growth in the year. Private sector employment reached a seasonal peak of 1,079,000 in autumn 1998 before falling back slightly in the fourth quarter. *See Table 13.*

Increasing evidence of labour supply shortages

Table 10 presents 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. The S3 indicator, which has the widest coverage, stood at 10.6% in the fourth quarter of 1998. This compares with 15.6% one year previously and 22.7% in April 1993. The increasing rate of decline in this indicator is evidence of a further tightening in the labour supply. *See Table 10 and Background Notes.*

At present, employment is increasing at a rate equivalent to between 4 and 5% per year. In general, this growth in the demand for workers is met by a combination of natural population growth, migration, transfers from unemployment to employment and increasing rates of participation in the labour force. Currently, the natural increase in the population is sufficient to meet about half of the growth in the demand for labour and transfers from unemployment have contributed to the steep fall in the unemployment rate and labour supply indicators.

Principal Economic Status

The number of persons describing their situation as “at work” under the Principal Economic Status classification grew by 82,000 in the year to September-November 1998. The number describing themselves as unemployed fell by 32,000 in the same period. *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 annual comparisons of LFS and QNHS results. However, seasonal factors are estimated to have contributed substantially to the numbers employed and unemployed in the summer and autumn quarters. It will not be possible to make definite estimates of seasonality until the quarterly survey has been under way for a number of years.

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	LFS	Quarterly National Household Survey				
	April 1997	Sep- Nov 97	Dec- Feb 98	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98
Males						
In Labour Force	937.3	981.2	978.2	978.7	1,014.2	994.4
In Employment :	840.3	881.4	894.5	899.9	934.9	928.4
full-time	794.9	810.7	824.2	829.4	865.0	863.1
part-time :	45.4	70.6	70.3	70.4	69.9	65.3
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	33.8	58.2	61.3	64.8	65.4	61.0
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	11.6	12.4	9.0	5.6	4.5	4.3
Unemployed :	97.1	99.8	83.7	78.8	79.3	66.0
seeking full-time work	94.5	93.6	80.2	75.8	75.4	64.2
seeking part-time work	2.6	6.2	3.5	3.0	3.9	1.8
Not in Labour Force	445.8	413.7	425.4	431.7	403.0	429.3
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	15.0	7.8	10.2	11.0	11.8	10.9
Others	430.8	405.9	415.2	420.7	391.2	418.4
Total males aged 15 or over	1,383.1	1,394.9	1,403.6	1,410.3	1,417.2	1,423.8
Unemployment rate %	10.4	10.2	8.6	8.1	7.8	6.6
Participation rate %	67.8	70.3	69.7	69.4	71.6	69.8
Females						
In Labour Force	601.7	662.6	643.4	642.4	674.4	656.3
In Employment :	539.7	590.9	588.5	594.6	624.8	616.3
full-time	415.2	408.0	408.5	415.4	441.4	432.4
part-time :	124.6	182.8	180.0	179.2	183.4	183.8
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	114.4	169.8	170.9	174.5	180.2	180.6
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	10.2	13.0	9.0	4.7	3.2	3.2
Unemployed :	62.0	71.7	54.9	47.8	49.6	40.0
seeking full-time work	42.1	38.6	33.0	29.6	34.1	25.2
seeking part-time work	19.9	33.1	21.9	18.2	15.5	14.8
Not in Labour Force	830.3	782.3	809.1	816.9	792.4	817.7
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	10.3	9.9	9.0	8.6	9.0	6.1
Others	820.1	772.4	800.2	808.3	783.4	811.6
Total females aged 15 or over	1,432.0	1,444.9	1,452.6	1,459.3	1,466.8	1,474.0
Unemployment rate %	10.3	10.8	8.5	7.4	7.4	6.1
Participation rate %	42.0	45.9	44.3	44.0	46.0	44.5
All Persons						
In Labour Force	1,539.0	1,643.9	1,621.6	1,621.1	1,688.6	1,650.7
In Employment :	1,379.9	1,472.3	1,483.1	1,494.5	1,559.7	1,544.7
full-time	1,210.0	1,218.8	1,232.7	1,244.9	1,306.4	1,295.5
part-time :	169.9	253.5	250.3	249.6	253.3	249.2
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	148.1	228.0	232.2	239.4	245.6	241.7
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	21.8	25.4	18.1	10.3	7.7	7.5
Unemployed :	159.0	171.6	138.6	126.6	128.9	106.0
seeking full-time work	136.6	132.3	113.1	105.4	109.5	89.4
seeking part-time work	22.4	39.3	25.4	21.2	19.4	16.6
Not in Labour Force	1,276.1	1,196.1	1,234.5	1,248.5	1,195.4	1,247.1
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	25.2	17.7	19.2	19.5	20.8	17.1
Others	1,250.9	1,178.4	1,215.3	1,229.0	1,174.6	1,230.0
Total persons aged 15 or over	2,815.1	2,839.8	2,856.2	2,869.6	2,884.0	2,897.7
Unemployment rate %	10.3	10.4	8.5	7.8	7.6	6.4
Participation rate %	54.7	57.9	56.8	56.5	58.5	57.0

* See Background Notes.

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

' 000

Economic Sector (NACE Rev. 1)	LFS	Quarterly National Household Survey				
	April 1997	Sep- Nov 97	Dec- Feb 98	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98
Males						
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	125.5	117.9	119.1	119.5	120.5	121.0
C-E Other production industries	200.4	203.4	206.4	208.5	215.1	212.5
F Construction	104.4	125.7	128.8	129.5	135.5	138.2
G Wholesale and retail trade	108.8	113.3	116.2	115.3	118.6	113.5
H Hotels and restaurants	32.7	36.5	39.5	39.4	42.2	38.9
I Transport, storage and communication	51.4	56.7	59.4	59.9	63.4	65.9
J-K Financial and other business services	71.4	80.4	81.3	81.6	87.1	86.5
L Public administration and defence	45.0	43.0	43.8	45.0	47.2	47.0
M-N Education and health	60.4	61.8	61.1	59.8	59.7	58.6
O Other services	40.4	42.7	39.0	41.3	45.5	46.3
Total males	840.3	881.4	894.5	899.9	934.9	928.4
Females						
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	16.1	16.9	15.9	16.5	16.0	15.6
C-E Other production industries	88.1	96.2	94.7	92.8	95.9	89.8
F Construction	6.0	7.0	6.8	6.8	8.4	9.1
G Wholesale and retail trade	84.5	90.7	93.4	92.3	101.2	98.4
H Hotels and restaurants	43.7	52.5	50.5	53.7	60.9	56.0
I Transport, storage and communication	13.6	19.4	19.7	20.2	21.6	22.3
J-K Financial and other business services	63.3	80.2	80.9	83.9	88.1	90.2
L Public administration and defence	27.2	25.2	26.2	27.4	28.0	27.2
M-N Education and health	152.4	153.7	153.3	153.1	152.6	155.5
O Other services	44.8	49.0	47.3	48.0	52.2	52.3
Total females	539.7	590.9	588.6	594.6	624.8	616.3
All persons						
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	141.5	134.8	135.0	136.0	136.5	136.6
C-E Other production industries	288.5	299.6	301.0	301.3	311.0	302.2
F Construction	110.4	132.7	135.5	136.3	143.9	147.3
G Wholesale and retail trade	193.3	204.0	209.6	207.6	219.8	211.9
H Hotels and restaurants	76.4	89.0	89.9	93.1	103.1	94.9
I Transport, storage and communication	65.0	76.2	79.0	80.2	85.0	88.3
J-K Financial and other business services	134.7	160.7	162.2	165.5	175.1	176.7
L Public administration and defence	72.2	68.2	70.0	72.5	75.3	74.2
M-N Education and health	212.9	215.5	214.4	212.8	212.3	214.0
O Other services	85.1	91.7	86.3	89.3	97.6	98.5
Total persons	1,379.9	1,472.2	1,483.1	1,494.5	1,559.7	1,544.7

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 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
	Jun-Aug 1998	151.0	15.7	166.7	9.4	53.2
	Sep-Nov 1998	150.4	14.7	165.1	8.9	52.6
Dublin						
	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
	Jun-Aug 1998	501.7	39.1	540.8	7.2	62.5
	Sep-Nov 1998	501.7	30.4	532.1	5.7	61.1
Mid-East						
	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
	Jun-Aug 1998	162.6	11.7	174.2	6.7	62.1
	Sep-Nov 1998	161.5	8.2	169.8	4.8	60.2
Midland						
	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
	Jun-Aug 1998	79.3	7.1	86.5	8.3	54.9
	Sep-Nov 1998	76.9	6.5	83.4	7.8	52.9
Mid-West						
	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
	Jun-Aug 1998	135.9	9.6	145.5	6.6	58.2
	Sep-Nov 1998	131.6	7.7	139.3	5.5	55.4
South-East						
	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
	Jun-Aug 1998	155.9	16.8	172.7	9.7	56.5
	Sep-Nov 1998	155.0	14.7	169.7	8.7	55.3
South-West						
	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
	Jun-Aug 1998	224.9	18.2	243.0	7.5	56.7
	Sep-Nov 1998	220.5	14.7	235.3	6.3	54.7
West						
	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
	Jun-Aug 1998	148.3	10.8	159.1	6.8	56.2
	Sep-Nov 1998	147.0	9.0	156.0	5.7	54.9
Total						
	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
	Jun-Aug 1998	1,559.7	128.9	1,688.6	7.6	58.5
	Sep-Nov 1998	1,544.7	106.0	1,650.7	6.4	57.0

¹ See Background Notes

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

									%
Marital Status	Age Group								
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	Total
Males									
Single	40.6	84.5	92.3	86.3	73.7	60.2	49.2	21.3	68.9
Married	30.1	98.5	96.4	95.5	89.9	74.4	54.8	14.8	76.6
Separated or divorced	*	*	94.2	88.0	79.1	55.9	38.9	13.9	72.7
Widowed	*	*	92.8	91.8	70.6	62.0	45.1	7.8	23.7
Total males	40.6	84.6	93.9	93.5	86.9	71.4	52.9	14.9	71.6
Females									
Single	32.4	78.6	86.0	80.4	68.9	49.8	25.2	5.3	60.1
Married	26.8	57.2	64.2	55.9	42.7	27.3	15.1	3.2	43.0
Separated or divorced	*	12.4	59.5	61.3	55.7	42.4	23.3	8.2	53.5
Widowed	*	*	40.1	50.7	49.0	24.2	16.9	2.1	8.6
Total females	32.5	77.5	74.1	59.5	46.1	29.5	16.7	3.0	46.0
All persons									
Single	36.6	81.6	89.6	83.8	71.9	56.5	40.1	13.6	64.8
Married	28.4	67.8	78.4	75.3	66.5	51.5	35.8	9.9	59.8
Separated or divorced	*	23.4	66.7	71.4	64.7	48.3	31.0	11.3	60.8
Widowed	75.7	80.1	55.6	65.0	55.2	32.5	22.6	3.2	11.8
Total persons	36.6	81.1	84.0	76.3	66.7	50.7	34.7	8.1	58.5

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

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

September-December, 1999									%
Marital Status	Age Group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Single	31.2	79.9	91.9	85.1	72.7	62.7	51.6	20.3	65.1
Married	37.0	93.2	96.5	95.5	89.8	75.9	54.2	14.6	76.8
Separated or divorced	*	*	93.0	84.9	79.2	56.0	44.7	17.8	71.7
Widowed	*	*	88.2	84.1	74.8	60.9	40.9	7.5	22.8
Total males	31.2	80.1	93.7	93.1	86.8	72.8	52.8	14.6	69.8
Females									
Single	23.5	72.0	85.9	80.0	68.1	46.0	28.8	4.7	55.6
Married	*	57.5	64.5	56.5	43.3	27.1	14.9	3.1	43.3
Separated or divorced	*	40.3	58.3	64.2	56.9	40.7	20.9	6.6	54.6
Widowed	*	*	23.4	57.9	48.9	28.5	17.5	2.0	8.7
Total females	23.5	71.3	74.0	60.1	46.6	29.4	17.1	2.8	44.5
All persons									
Single	27.4	76.1	89.3	82.9	71.0	57.0	43.0	12.9	60.7
Married	22.6	67.1	78.5	75.6	66.8	51.9	35.3	9.7	60.0
Separated or divorced	*	54.8	65.9	71.5	65.5	47.3	33.8	12.6	60.9
Widowed	62.7	*	42.7	66.5	56.3	36.7	22.4	3.1	11.7
Total persons	27.5	75.8	83.8	76.4	66.9	51.3	34.8	7.9	57.0

* 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+	
Males									
April 1997	20.2	15.7	10.1	9.4	9.4	7.3	5.1	1.3	10.4
Sep-Nov 1997	18.5	13.8	9.6	9.6	9.4	8.3	5.3	1.7	10.2
Dec-Feb 1998	14.8	11.4	8.0	8.2	8.9	5.9	4.6	0.8	8.6
Mar-May 1998	13.3	11.3	7.6	7.3	8.3	6.0	4.3	0.9	8.1
Jun-Aug 1998	14.3	11.0	7.2	6.9	7.5	5.8	4.0	1.1	7.8
Sep-Nov 1998	11.0	9.2	6.3	6.0	6.5	5.6	4.7	0.5	6.6
Females									
April 1997	23.4	12.5	9.5	9.0	9.4	5.6	4.0	6.3	10.3
Sep-Nov 1997	19.5	12.2	9.2	11.0	10.5	7.8	5.1	4.1	10.8
Dec-Feb 1998	15.3	10.7	7.4	7.9	8.5	6.1	3.7	2.6	8.5
Mar-May 1998	15.8	9.3	6.2	6.4	7.8	5.5	2.6	0.5	7.4
Jun-Aug 1998	15.9	9.9	6.2	5.9	6.2	4.0	3.1	0.0	7.4
Sep-Nov 1998	13.9	8.1	5.0	5.2	5.5	4.0	5.3	0.5	6.1
All persons									
April 1997	21.5	14.2	9.8	9.2	9.4	6.8	4.8	2.4	10.3
Sep-Nov 1997	19.0	13.0	9.4	10.2	9.8	8.1	5.2	2.2	10.4
Dec-Feb 1998	15.0	11.0	7.7	8.1	8.8	6.0	4.4	1.1	8.5
Mar-May 1998	14.3	10.4	7.0	7.0	8.2	5.9	3.9	0.8	7.8
Jun-Aug 1998	15.0	10.5	6.8	6.5	7.1	5.3	3.8	0.9	7.6
Sep-Nov 1998	12.2	8.7	5.7	5.7	6.2	5.1	4.8	0.5	6.4

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

¹ 000

Duration	Quarterly National Household Survey					
	April 1997	Sep- Nov-97	Dec- Feb-98	Mar- May-98	Jun- Aug-98	Sep- Nov-98
Males						
Less than 1 year	35.1	39.4	32.8	32.2	34.5	27.8
1 year and over	58.8	60.3	50.7	46.3	44.5	37.9
Not stated	3.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total males	97.1	99.8	83.7	78.8	79.3	66.0
Females						
Less than 1 year	31.9	41.7	33.0	30.5	32.3	26.0
1 year and over	27.5	29.9	21.9	17.2	17.2	13.8
Not stated	2.6	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total females	62.0	71.7	54.9	47.8	49.6	40.0
All persons						
Less than 1 year	67.1	81.1	65.8	62.6	66.8	53.8
1 year and over	86.3	90.2	72.6	63.5	61.7	51.7
Not stated	5.7	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5
Total persons	159.0	171.6	138.6	126.6	128.9	106.0

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

¹ 000

Duration	QNHS Jun-Aug 1998				QNHS Sep-Nov 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	16.6	12.6	5.3	34.5	11.6	11.9	4.4	27.8
1 year and over	8.1	22.0	14.4	44.5	5.9	18.5	13.5	37.9
Not stated	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Total males	24.7	34.8	19.8	79.3	17.6	30.5	18.0	66.0
Females								
Less than 1 year	15.8	12.9	3.6	32.3	10.5	11.9	3.5	26.0
1 year and over	4.4	8.7	4.0	17.2	3.6	6.4	3.8	13.8
Not stated	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2
Total females	20.3	21.7	7.6	49.6	14.3	18.4	7.3	40.0
All persons								
Less than 1 year	32.4	25.5	8.9	66.8	22.1	23.8	7.9	53.8
1 year and over	12.5	30.7	18.5	61.7	9.6	24.9	17.3	51.7
Not stated	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5
Total persons	45.0	56.5	27.4	128.9	31.9	48.8	25.3	106.0

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
Jun-Aug 1998	1,688.6	128.9	61.7	7.6	3.7
Sep-Nov 1998	1,650.7	106.0	51.7	6.4	3.1

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

' 000

ILO Economic Status	Labour Force Survey					Quarterly National Household Survey				
	April 1993	April 1994	April 1995	April 1996	April 1997	Sep- Nov 97	Dec- Feb 98	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98
In Labour Force	1,403.2	1,431.6	1,459.2	1,507.5	1,539.0	1,643.9	1,621.6	1,621.1	1,688.6	1,650.7
In Employment :	1,183.1	1,220.6	1,281.7	1,328.5	1,379.9	1,472.3	1,483.1	1,494.5	1,559.7	1,544.7
full-time	1,055.7	1,083.2	1,127.8	1,176.4	1,210.0	1,218.8	1,232.7	1,244.9	1,306.4	1,295.5
part-time :	127.5	137.4	153.9	152.1	169.9	253.5	250.3	249.6	253.3	249.2
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	103.6	112.5	127.7	128.6	148.1	228.0	232.2	239.4	245.6	241.7
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	23.9	24.9	26.2	23.5	21.8	25.4	18.1	10.3	7.7	7.5
Unemployed :	220.1	211.0	177.4	179.0	159.0	171.6	138.6	126.6	128.9	106.0
seeking full-time work	196.7	186.4	153.5	151.3	136.6	132.3	113.1	105.4	109.5	89.4
seeking part-time work	23.4	24.6	24.0	27.7	22.4	39.3	25.4	21.2	19.4	16.6
Not in Labour Force	1,253.9	1,255.7	1,264.2	1,259.2	1,276.1	1,196.1	1,234.5	1,248.5	1,195.4	1,247.1
Marginally attached to the Labour Force :	32.2	29.7	27.5	20.2	25.2	17.7	19.2	19.5	20.8	17.1
Discouraged workers	20.3	19.1	16.4	13.6	16.9	12.3	14.1	14.1	16.2	13.3
Passive jobseekers	11.9	10.6	11.1	6.6	8.3	5.4	5.1	5.5	4.6	3.8
Others :	1,221.7	1,226.0	1,236.7	1,239.0	1,250.9	1,178.4	1,215.3	1,229.0	1,174.6	1,230.0
Persons not in education, who want work	63.5	61.1	61.3	54.1	71.9	52.0	56.3	58.7	55.6	52.6
Persons in education, who want work	81.1	78.6	74.8	51.3	82.3	30.6	47.2	57.6	36.4	36.1
All other persons	1,077.0	1,086.2	1,100.7	1,133.6	1,096.6	1,095.7	1,111.9	1,112.7	1,082.6	1,141.2
Total persons aged 15 or over	2,657.1	2,687.3	2,723.4	2,766.7	2,815.1	2,839.8	2,856.2	2,869.6	2,884.0	2,897.7

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
Jun-Aug 1998	8.5	11.6	12.1
Sep-Nov 1998	7.2	10.2	10.6

%

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		Quarterly National Household Survey				
	April 1996	April 1997	Sep-Nov 97	Dec-Feb 98	Mar-May 98	Jun-Aug 98	Sep-Nov 98
Males							
At work	803.5	825.6	852.7	869.1	874.0	895.5	904.2
Unemployed	138.6	130.6	124.0	114.2	111.3	108.5	99.9
Student	173.5	176.1	168.4	176.4	178.1	164.9	169.0
Home duties	8.7	9.2	8.6	8.5	8.0	7.5	7.8
Retired	177.7	179.5	184.1	185.0	186.8	187.5	187.3
Others	56.7	62.0	57.2	50.4	52.1	53.4	55.6
Total males	1,358.8	1,383.1	1,394.9	1,403.6	1,410.3	1,417.2	1,423.8
Females							
At work	493.6	512.8	543.6	546.3	552.7	572.7	574.5
Unemployed	52.8	48.3	47.8	44.2	43.1	44.9	39.6
Student	179.5	181.9	175.0	183.4	188.5	173.3	182.8
Home duties	574.7	588.0	576.6	581.1	578.5	579.1	583.0
Retired	74.5	66.2	71.3	69.2	68.0	66.3	63.6
Others	32.9	34.8	30.6	28.5	28.5	30.4	30.5
Total females	1,407.9	1,432.0	1,444.9	1,452.6	1,459.3	1,466.8	1,474.0
All Persons							
At work	1,297.2	1,338.4	1,396.3	1,415.4	1,426.7	1,468.2	1,478.7
Unemployed	191.3	178.9	171.7	158.4	154.5	153.4	139.5
Student	353.0	358.0	343.4	359.8	366.6	338.2	351.8
Home duties	583.4	597.2	585.2	589.5	586.5	586.7	590.8
Retired	252.2	245.8	255.3	254.2	254.8	253.8	250.9
Others	89.6	96.7	87.8	78.9	80.6	83.8	86.1
Total persons	2,766.7	2,815.1	2,839.8	2,856.2	2,869.6	2,884.0	2,897.7

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

Table 12a Persons aged 15 years and over classified by ILO Economic Status and by Principal Economic Status, June - August, 1998

' 000

ILO Economic Status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
Males							
In Employment :	891.6	3.4	35.0	0.3	2.4	2.1	934.9
full-time	846.1	1.5	15.5	0.0	0.3	1.6	865.0
part-time :	45.5	2.0	19.5	0.2	2.1	0.6	69.9
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	41.7	1.4	19.4	0.2	2.1	0.6	65.4
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	3.8	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5
Unemployed :	0.7	71.0	5.1	0.4	0.9	1.1	79.3
seeking full-time work	0.7	69.7	3.2	0.2	0.6	1.0	75.4
seeking part-time work	0.0	1.3	1.9	0.2	0.4	0.1	3.9
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	1.3	8.5	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.4	11.8
Others	1.8	25.5	124.2	6.8	183.2	49.7	391.2
Total males aged 15 or over	895.5	108.5	164.9	7.5	187.4	53.4	1,417.2
Females							
In Employment :	568.2	2.0	33.8	17.5	0.2	3.2	624.8
full-time	423.3	1.0	12.4	2.5	0.0	2.2	441.4
part-time :	145.0	1.0	21.4	15.0	0.1	1.0	183.4
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	142.3	0.8	21.3	14.8	0.1	1.0	180.2
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	2.7	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	3.2
Unemployed :	0.9	27.3	5.5	15.3	0.2	0.4	49.6
seeking full-time work	0.8	23.4	3.7	5.7	0.1	0.3	34.1
seeking part-time work	0.2	3.9	1.8	9.6	0.1	0.0	15.5
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	1.6	1.9	0.8	4.1	0.2	0.4	9.0
Others	2.0	13.7	133.2	542.3	65.8	26.5	783.4
Total females aged 15 or over	572.7	44.9	173.3	579.1	66.3	30.4	1,466.8
All Persons							
In Employment :	1,459.8	5.4	68.8	17.8	2.6	5.3	1,559.7
full-time	1,269.4	2.5	27.9	2.6	0.3	3.7	1,306.4
part-time :	190.5	3.0	40.8	15.2	2.3	1.6	253.3
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	184.0	2.2	40.6	15.0	2.3	1.6	245.6
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	6.5	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	7.7
Unemployed :	1.7	98.3	10.7	15.7	1.1	1.5	128.9
seeking full-time work	1.5	93.1	6.9	5.9	0.7	1.3	109.5
seeking part-time work	0.2	5.2	3.7	9.8	0.5	0.1	19.4
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	3.0	10.5	1.4	4.1	1.1	0.8	20.8
Others	3.8	39.3	257.3	549.1	248.9	76.2	1,174.6
Total persons aged 15 or over	1,468.2	153.4	338.2	586.7	253.8	83.8	2,884.0

Table 12b Persons aged 15 years and over classified by ILO Economic Status and by Principal Economic Status, September - November, 1998

¹ 000

ILO Economic Status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
Males							
In Employment :	901.1	3.1	18.7	0.4	2.6	2.5	928.4
full-time	856.7	1.3	2.7	0.1	0.3	2.0	863.1
part-time :	44.4	1.8	16.0	0.3	2.3	0.5	65.3
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	40.8	1.1	16.0	0.3	2.3	0.5	61.0
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	3.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3
Unemployed :	0.5	62.6	1.1	0.2	0.7	0.9	66.0
seeking full-time work	0.5	61.9	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.9	64.2
seeking part-time work	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.0	1.8
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	0.9	8.6	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.3	10.9
Others	1.7	25.6	149.0	7.0	183.2	51.9	418.4
Total males aged 15 or over	904.2	99.9	169.0	7.8	187.3	55.6	1,423.8
Females							
In Employment :	571.4	1.6	21.3	19.2	0.3	2.4	616.3
full-time	425.3	0.8	2.1	2.5	0.0	1.6	432.4
part-time :	146.0	0.8	19.2	16.7	0.3	0.8	183.8
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	143.3	0.5	19.2	16.5	0.3	0.8	180.6
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	2.7	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	3.2
Unemployed :	0.3	23.5	1.9	13.6	0.2	0.4	40.0
seeking full-time work	0.2	19.0	0.5	5.1	0.0	0.3	25.2
seeking part-time work	0.1	4.5	1.4	8.5	0.2	0.1	14.8
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	1.0	1.8	0.3	2.8	0.1	0.3	6.1
Others	1.7	12.7	159.3	547.5	63.0	27.4	811.6
Total females aged 15 or over	574.5	39.6	182.8	583.0	63.6	30.5	1,474.0
All Persons							
In Employment :	1,472.5	4.7	40.0	19.6	2.9	4.9	1,544.7
full-time	1,282.0	2.1	4.7	2.6	0.3	3.6	1,295.5
part-time :	190.4	2.5	35.2	17.0	2.6	1.3	249.2
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	184.1	1.6	35.2	16.8	2.6	1.3	241.7
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	6.3	0.9	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	7.5
Unemployed :	0.8	86.1	3.1	13.8	0.9	1.3	106.0
seeking full-time work	0.7	80.9	0.9	5.2	0.4	1.2	89.4
seeking part-time work	0.1	5.2	2.2	8.6	0.5	0.1	16.6
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	1.9	10.4	0.5	2.8	0.9	0.6	17.1
Others	3.5	38.3	308.2	554.5	246.2	79.3	1,230.0
Total persons aged 15 or over	1,478.7	139.5	351.8	590.8	250.9	86.1	2,897.7

Table 13 Total employment and private sector employment (ILO)

' 000

	Labour Force Survey								Quarterly National Household Survey						
	April 1988	April 1989	April 1990	April 1991	April 1992	April 1993	April 1994	April 1995	April 1996	April 1997	Sep- Nov 97	Dec- Feb 98	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98
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	1,560	1,545
2. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	171	168	175	159	157	150	147	149	141	142	135	135	136	137	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	1,423	1,408
4. State-sponsored employment schemes *	18	13	16	14	16	17	31	41	40	41	40	40	41	41	40
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	1,383	1,368
6. Public sector employment *	295	286	287	288	288	289	291	294	301	297	296	301	300	304	301
7. Private sector employment (5-6)	627	644	682	695	704	727	752	798	847	900	1,001	1,007	1,018	1,079	1,067

* 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 and the following two quarters were published in November 1998. This release contains results for June-August and September-November 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 subsequent 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 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 spring 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. The CSO is attributing 20,000 of the observed annual increase in ILO employment, in the year to March-May 1998 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 between spring 1997 and 1998.

Seasonality

Seasonal factors do not affect annual comparisons of LFS/QNHS results. However, they do affect the sub-annual comparisons and the effects of seasonal variation in labour supply and demand are evident from the first year of QNHS results.

Seasonal factors are most clearly visible in the results for June-August 1998, when the number of persons in employment peaked at 1,559,700. Unemployment also increased in that quarter, indicating that more people were available and looking for work. Other summer seasonal effects can be seen in the sectoral employment figures (with strong results for retailing, hotels and restaurants) and in the lower number of students in summer. There is also evidence that employment and unemployment are both lower in the winter months.

However, it will not be possible to accurately calculate seasonal factors until the survey has been conducted for a number of years. There are positive seasonal influences on the labour force in summer and autumn. In previous QNHS releases, the impact of seasonality in the autumn had been estimated at between 20,000 and 50,000; the current results indicate that the lower of these two figures is more appropriate. In the summer quarter, around 40,000 of the quarterly increase in the labour force appears to be attributable to seasonality.