



Central Statistics Office
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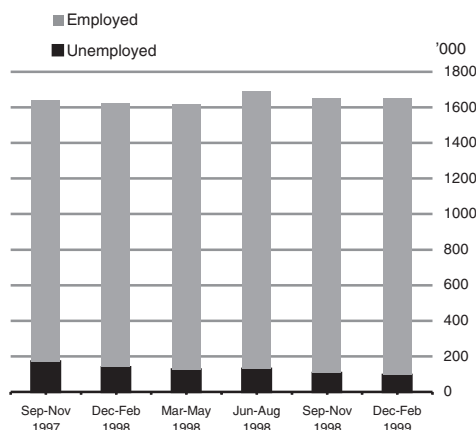


**Based on the 1996 Census of Population figures
For figures based on the 2002 Census of Population see the
revised QNHS series.**

21 July 1999

Quarterly National Household Survey First Quarter 1999

Total Labour Force



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
Dec-Feb 1999	1,555.0	95.1	1,650.1

Unemployment falls below 100,000

Unemployment fell below 100,000 in the first quarter of this year. This figure is based on the latest results from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). There were 95,100 persons unemployed in quarter one of 1999, a fall of 10,900 on the previous quarter.

Following a seasonal fall-off in employment in the September-November 1998 quarter, the level of employment grew by 10,300 to reach 1,555,000 in quarter one of 1999. Overall, the fall in unemployment and the matching increase in employment led to a marginal fall in the total labour force, which stood at 1,650,100. This represented 56.7% of the population aged 15 or over.

Compared with one year previously, when there were 138,600 unemployed, the level of unemployment fell by 43,500 or almost a third. Employment grew by almost 72,000 in the year with full-time jobs accounting for all of this increase. Overall, the labour force grew by 28,500 between the first quarters of 1998 and 1999, with an increase of 13,400 for men and 15,100 for women.

The labour force participation rate for males fell from 69.7% to 69.4%, but it increased for females from 44.3% to 44.5%. *See Table 1.*

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Employment grows by 72,000 in year

There were 1,555,000 persons in employment in quarter one of 1999, an annual increase of almost 72,000. The number of men in employment grew by 37,100 and the number of women by 34,800. *See Table 1.*

The number of part-time workers, at just under 250,000 in the most recent quarter, has changed very little since the start of 1998. The majority of part-time workers indicated that they were not looking for full-time work. *See Table 1 and Background Notes.*

Much of the labour force growth in the past year has been in the services sector, notably business-related services; transport, communication and storage; and the wholesale and retail trade. Construction showed strong growth while there was little overall change in public service numbers. *See Table 2.*

Employment in the non-agricultural private sector is estimated to have grown by 63,000 in the year to quarter one of 1999, accounting for the vast majority of employment growth. *See Table 13.*

Unemployment rate of 5.8% in first quarter of 1999

The lower numbers of unemployed led to a fall in the unemployment rate to 5.8% in the first quarter of 1999. This compares with 8.5% one year earlier. *See Table 1.*

Unemployment fell for both men and women. In the first quarter of 1999, it is estimated that there were 60,100 men unemployed; the majority of these were looking for full-time work. There were 35,200 women unemployed, of whom about a third (12,700) were looking for part-time rather than full-time work. *See Table 1.*

The unemployment rate for men was 6.0% (down 2.6% in the course of the previous year) while the unemployment rate for women was down by more than 3%, to 5.3%. *See Table 1.*

Duration of unemployment

The number of long-term unemployed fell by 29,000 in the year, to 43,600. About 8,000 of this decrease took place between the fourth quarter of 1998 and the first quarter of 1999. The number unemployed for less than one year fell by 14,800 in the year, to 51,000. *See Table 6.*

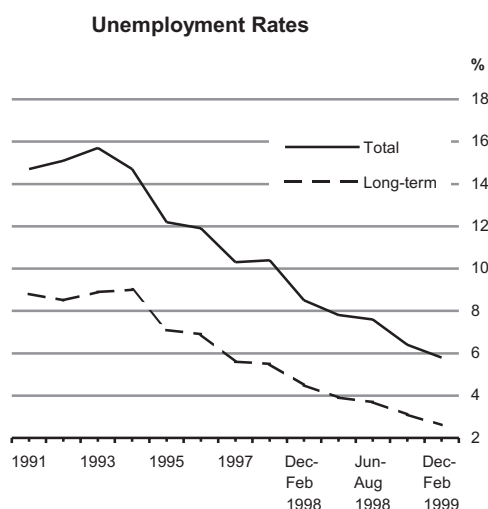
The long-term unemployed accounted for 2.6% of the labour force in the first quarter of 1999, compared with 4.5% one year before that. *See Table 8.*

Regional comparisons

The unemployment rate was lowest in the Mid-East region (4.4%) and highest in the Border region (8.4%). The highest rate of labour force participation was in the Dublin region (61%) while the lowest rate was in the Midlands (51.8%). *See Table 3b.*

In the new NUTS-2 regions, the Border, Midlands and Western region had an unemployment rate of 6.9% compared with 5.4% in the Eastern and Southern region. Labour force participation was higher in the Eastern and Southern region (58%) than in the Border, Midlands and West (53.3%).

Some 51,000 of the annual employment growth of 72,000 was in the Eastern and Southern NUTS-2 region. Three quarters of total employment is located in this region. *See Table 3a.*



Labour supply shortages

The labour supply indicators continue to reflect the tight labour market situation. However, they did not fall as steeply in quarter one of 1999 as in previous quarters. This appears to reflect seasonal variations in the number of discouraged workers and other persons outside the labour force who indicated some interest in obtaining work. These groups, which are included in the calculation of the broader labour supply indicators, grew in number during the quarter. *See Tables 9 and 10.*

The S3 indicator, which has the widest coverage, stood at 10.2% in the first quarter of 1999, down 0.2% on the previous quarter and 3.3% below the corresponding quarter of 1998. *See Table 10.*

Principal Economic Status

The number of persons describing their usual situation as at work grew by 75,000 between the first quarters of 1998 and 1999, while the number describing themselves as unemployed fell by 25,000 in the same period. *See Table 11.*

Comparing the LFS and the QNHS

The QNHS was introduced in September 1997, replacing the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). 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	Sep- Nov 97	Dec- Feb 98	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98	Dec- Feb 99
Males						
In Labour Force	981.2	978.2	978.7	1,014.2	994.4	991.6
In Employment :	881.4	894.5	899.9	934.9	928.4	931.6
full-time	810.7	824.2	829.4	865.0	863.1	867.7
part-time :	70.6	70.3	70.4	69.9	65.3	63.9
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	58.2	61.3	64.8	65.4	61.0	60.1
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	12.4	9.0	5.6	4.5	4.3	3.7
Unemployed :	99.8	83.7	78.8	79.3	66.0	60.0
seeking full-time work	93.6	80.2	75.8	75.4	64.2	58.3
seeking part-time work	6.2	3.5	3.0	3.9	1.8	1.7
Not in Labour Force	413.7	425.4	431.7	403.0	429.3	437.7
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	7.8	10.2	11.0	11.8	10.9	12.6
Others	405.9	415.2	420.7	391.2	418.4	425.2
Total males aged 15 or over	1,394.9	1,403.6	1,410.3	1,417.2	1,423.8	1,429.3
Unemployment rate %	10.2	8.6	8.1	7.8	6.6	6.0
Participation rate %	70.3	69.7	69.4	71.6	69.8	69.4
Females						
In Labour Force	662.6	643.4	642.4	674.4	656.3	658.5
In Employment :	590.9	588.5	594.6	624.8	616.3	623.3
full-time	408.0	408.5	415.4	441.4	432.4	437.7
part-time :	182.8	180.0	179.2	183.4	183.8	185.6
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	169.8	170.9	174.5	180.2	180.6	182.8
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	13.0	9.0	4.7	3.2	3.2	2.8
Unemployed :	71.7	54.9	47.8	49.6	40.0	35.2
seeking full-time work	38.6	33.0	29.6	34.1	25.2	22.5
seeking part-time work	33.1	21.9	18.2	15.5	14.8	12.7
Not in Labour Force	782.3	809.1	816.9	792.4	817.7	820.1
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	9.9	9.0	8.6	9.0	6.1	6.8
Others	772.4	800.2	808.3	783.4	811.6	813.4
Total females aged 15 or over	1,444.9	1,452.6	1,459.3	1,466.8	1,474.0	1,478.7
Unemployment rate %	10.8	8.5	7.4	7.4	6.1	5.3
Participation rate %	45.9	44.3	44.0	46.0	44.5	44.5
All Persons						
In Labour Force	1,643.9	1,621.6	1,621.1	1,688.6	1,650.7	1,650.1
In Employment :	1,472.3	1,483.1	1,494.5	1,559.7	1,544.7	1,555.0
full-time	1,218.8	1,232.7	1,244.9	1,306.4	1,295.5	1,305.5
part-time :	253.5	250.3	249.6	253.3	249.2	249.5
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	228.0	232.2	239.4	245.6	241.7	242.9
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	25.4	18.1	10.3	7.7	7.5	6.6
Unemployed :	171.6	138.6	126.6	128.9	106.0	95.1
seeking full-time work	132.3	113.1	105.4	109.5	89.4	80.7
seeking part-time work	39.3	25.4	21.2	19.4	16.6	14.4
Not in Labour Force	1,196.1	1,234.5	1,248.5	1,195.4	1,247.1	1,257.9
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	17.7	19.2	19.5	20.8	17.1	19.3
Others	1,178.4	1,215.3	1,229.0	1,174.6	1,230.0	1,238.5
Total persons aged 15 or over	2,839.8	2,856.2	2,869.6	2,884.0	2,897.7	2,908.0
Unemployment rate %	10.4	8.5	7.8	7.6	6.4	5.8
Participation rate %	57.9	56.8	56.5	58.5	57.0	56.7

* See Background Notes.

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

' 000

Economic Sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Sep- Nov 97	Dec- Feb 98	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98	Dec- Feb 99
Males						
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	117.9	119.1	119.5	120.5	121.0	121.8
C-E Other production industries	203.4	206.4	208.5	215.1	212.5	209.0
F Construction	125.7	128.8	129.5	135.5	138.2	139.2
G Wholesale and retail trade	113.3	116.2	115.3	118.6	113.5	116.3
H Hotels and restaurants	36.5	39.5	39.4	42.2	38.9	37.7
I Transport, storage and communication	56.7	59.4	59.9	63.4	65.9	68.2
J-K Financial and other business services	80.4	81.3	81.6	87.1	86.5	88.5
L Public administration and defence	43.0	43.8	45.0	47.2	47.0	49.5
M-N Education and health	61.8	61.1	59.8	59.7	58.6	56.4
O Other services	42.7	39.0	41.3	45.5	46.3	45.0
Total males	881.4	894.5	899.9	934.9	928.4	931.6
Females						
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	16.9	15.9	16.5	16.0	15.6	16.1
C-E Other production industries	96.2	94.7	92.8	95.9	89.8	91.4
F Construction	7.0	6.8	6.8	8.4	9.1	9.7
G Wholesale and retail trade	90.7	93.4	92.3	101.2	98.4	101.2
H Hotels and restaurants	52.5	50.5	53.7	60.9	56.0	54.5
I Transport, storage and communication	19.4	19.7	20.2	21.6	22.3	23.1
J-K Financial and other business services	80.2	80.9	83.9	88.1	90.2	90.5
L Public administration and defence	25.2	26.2	27.4	28.0	27.2	26.4
M-N Education and health	153.7	153.3	153.1	152.6	155.5	158.6
O Other services	49.0	47.3	48.0	52.2	52.3	52.0
Total females	590.9	588.6	594.6	624.8	616.3	623.3
All persons						
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	134.8	135.0	136.0	136.5	136.6	137.9
C-E Other production industries	299.6	301.0	301.3	311.0	302.2	300.4
F Construction	132.7	135.5	136.3	143.9	147.3	148.9
G Wholesale and retail trade	204.0	209.6	207.6	219.8	211.9	217.4
H Hotels and restaurants	89.0	89.9	93.1	103.1	94.9	92.2
I Transport, storage and communication	76.2	79.0	80.2	85.0	88.3	91.2
J-K Financial and other business services	160.7	162.2	165.5	175.1	176.7	179.0
L Public administration and defence	68.2	70.0	72.5	75.3	74.2	75.9
M-N Education and health	215.5	214.4	212.8	212.3	214.0	215.0
O Other services	91.7	86.3	89.3	97.6	98.5	97.0
Total persons	1,472.2	1,483.1	1,494.5	1,559.7	1,544.7	1,555.0

Table 3a Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS2 Regions¹ and ILO Economic Status

NUTS2 Region	In Employment	Unemployed	In Labour Force	Unemployment Rate	Participation Rate
	000	000	000	%	%
Border, Midlands and Western					
Sep-Nov 1997	357.3	45.1	402.3	11.2	54.3
Dec-Feb 1998	356.6	39.2	395.8	9.9	52.9
Mar-May 1998	363.0	33.4	396.3	8.4	52.7
Jun-Aug 1998	378.6	33.6	412.3	8.2	54.7
Sep-Nov 1998	374.3	30.2	404.5	7.5	53.5
Dec-Feb 1999	377.4	28.0	405.5	6.9	53.3
Eastern and Southern					
Sep-Nov 1997	1,115.0	126.5	1,241.5	10.2	59.2
Dec-Feb 1998	1,126.4	99.4	1,225.8	8.1	58.2
Mar-May 1998	1,131.5	93.2	1,224.7	7.6	57.8
Jun-Aug 1998	1,181.0	95.4	1,276.2	7.5	59.9
Sep-Nov 1998	1,170.4	75.8	1,246.2	6.1	58.2
Dec-Feb 1999	1,177.5	67.1	1,244.6	5.4	58.0
State					
Sep-Nov 1997	1,472.2	171.6	1,643.8	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
Dec-Feb 1999	1,555.0	95.1	1,650.1	5.8	56.7

¹ See Background Notes

Table 3b Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS3 Regions¹ and ILO Economic Status

NUTS3 Region		In Employment	Unemployed	In Labour Force	Unemployment Rate	Participation Rate
		000	000	000	%	%
Border						
	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
	Dec-Feb 1999	151.9	13.9	165.7	8.4	52.6
Dublin						
	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
	Dec-Feb 1999	504.3	26.4	530.7	5.0	61.0
Mid-East						
	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
	Dec-Feb 1999	163.0	7.5	170.5	4.4	60.0
Midland						
	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
	Dec-Feb 1999	77.5	5.9	83.3	7.0	51.8
Mid-West						
	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
	Dec-Feb 1999	133.1	7.1	140.2	5.1	55.8
South-East						
	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
	Dec-Feb 1999	156.0	13.3	169.3	7.8	54.9
South-West						
	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
	Dec-Feb 1999	221.1	12.8	233.9	5.5	54.0
West						
	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
	Dec-Feb 1999	148.1	8.3	156.4	5.3	55.0
State						
	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
	Dec-Feb 1999	1,555.0	95.1	1,650.1	5.8	56.7

¹ See Background Notes

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

%

Marital Status	Age Group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Single	30.8	77.3	91.5	84.9	74.6	61.1	53.2	19.4	64.4
Married	32.5	95.5	96.3	95.2	89.4	75.3	55.1	14.1	76.3
Separated or divorced	*	*	87.9	84.8	81.5	60.5	45.8	18.6	73.5
Widowed	*	*	*	82.7	77.5	62.1	37.6	8.1	22.8
Total males	30.8	77.6	93.3	92.8	86.9	72.4	53.6	14.2	69.4
Females									
Single	22.3	70.9	85.2	78.2	68.3	51.1	27.4	3.3	54.9
Married	*	56.0	64.6	56.5	44.7	28.7	16.9	3.1	43.7
Separated or divorced	*	39.1	53.9	65.7	57.7	41.6	18.9	8.9	54.5
Widowed	*	*	33.5	56.8	47.4	24.8	14.9	2.2	8.4
Total females	22.3	70.3	73.9	60.0	47.8	30.8	17.7	2.7	44.5
All persons									
Single	26.7	74.2	88.7	82.1	72.1	57.5	43.4	11.7	60.0
Married	24.6	67.1	78.5	75.5	67.3	52.5	36.9	9.4	60.0
Separated or divorced	*	44.1	63.3	72.3	67.0	49.2	32.0	14.0	61.6
Widowed	*	67.8	47.0	64.3	56.0	34.1	19.8	3.4	11.5
Total persons	26.7	74.0	83.6	76.2	67.5	51.8	35.5	7.7	56.7

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

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

%

		Age Group							Total	
		15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64		65+
Males										
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
Dec-Feb 1999		10.1	8.4	5.5	6.1	5.9	4.5	3.0	0.4	6.0
Females										
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
Dec-Feb 1999		10.6	7.6	4.3	4.7	4.9	4.6	2.8	0.0	5.3
All persons										
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
Dec-Feb 1999		10.3	8.0	5.0	5.6	5.5	4.5	3.0	0.3	5.8

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

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Duration	Sep- Nov-97	Dec- Feb-98	Mar- May-98	Jun- Aug-98	Sep- Nov-98	Dec- Feb-99
Males						
Less than 1 year	39.4	32.8	32.2	34.5	27.8	27.1
1 year and over	60.3	50.7	46.3	44.5	37.9	32.4
Not stated	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5
Total males	99.8	83.7	78.8	79.3	66.0	60.0
Females						
Less than 1 year	41.7	33.0	30.5	32.3	26.0	23.9
1 year and over	29.9	21.9	17.2	17.2	13.8	11.2
Not stated	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0
Total females	71.7	54.9	47.8	49.6	40.0	35.2
All persons						
Less than 1 year	81.1	65.8	62.6	66.8	53.8	51.0
1 year and over	90.2	72.6	63.5	61.7	51.7	43.6
Not stated	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Total persons	171.6	138.6	126.6	128.9	106.0	95.1

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

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Duration	QNHS Dec-Feb 1998				QNHS Dec-Feb 1999			
	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	12.6	14.0	6.1	32.8	10.7	11.7	4.6	27.1
1 year and over	9.2	25.1	16.5	50.7	4.9	16.7	10.8	32.4
Not stated	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5
Total males	21.8	39.3	22.6	83.7	15.8	28.7	15.5	60.0
Females								
Less than 1 year	11.8	15.7	5.5	33.0	8.8	11.3	3.9	23.9
1 year and over	5.7	11.1	5.1	21.9	3.5	4.8	2.9	11.2
Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total females	17.5	26.8	10.6	54.9	12.3	16.1	6.7	35.2
All persons								
Less than 1 year	24.4	29.8	11.7	65.8	19.5	23.0	8.4	51.0
1 year and over	14.9	36.1	21.5	72.6	8.3	21.6	13.6	43.6
Not stated	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5
Total persons	39.3	66.1	33.3	138.6	28.1	44.8	22.3	95.1

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
Dec-Feb 1999	1,650.1	95.1	43.6	5.8	2.6

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

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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	Dec- Feb 99
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	1,650.1
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	1,555.0
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	1,305.5
part-time :	127.5	137.4	153.9	152.1	169.9	253.5	250.3	249.6	253.3	249.2	249.5
<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	242.9
<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	6.6
Unemployed :	220.1	211.0	177.4	179.0	159.0	171.6	138.6	126.6	128.9	106.0	95.1
seeking full-time work	196.7	186.4	153.5	151.3	136.6	132.3	113.1	105.4	109.5	89.4	80.7
seeking part-time work	23.4	24.6	24.0	27.7	22.4	39.3	25.4	21.2	19.4	16.6	14.4
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	1,257.9
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	19.3
Discouraged workers	20.3	19.1	16.4	13.6	16.9	12.3	14.1	14.1	16.2	13.3	14.1
Passive jobseekers	11.9	10.6	11.1	6.6	8.3	5.4	5.1	5.5	4.6	3.8	5.2
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	1,238.5
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	57.7
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	35.3
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	1,145.5
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	2,908.0

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
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
Dec-Feb 1999	6.6	10.0	10.4

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**

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Principal Economic Status	LFS	Quarterly National Household Survey					
	April 1997	Sep-Nov 97	Dec-Feb 98	Mar-May 98	Jun-Aug 98	Sep-Nov 98	Dec-Feb 99
Males							
At work	825.6	852.7	869.1	874.0	895.5	904.2	907.7
Unemployed	130.6	124.0	114.2	111.3	108.5	99.9	94.5
Student	176.1	168.4	176.4	178.1	164.9	169.0	175.3
Home duties	9.2	8.6	8.5	8.0	7.5	7.8	8.3
Retired	179.5	184.1	185.0	186.8	187.5	187.3	187.4
Others	62.0	57.2	50.4	52.1	53.4	55.6	56.2
Total males	1,383.1	1,394.9	1,403.6	1,410.3	1,417.2	1,423.8	1,429.3
Females							
At work	512.8	543.6	546.3	552.7	572.7	574.5	582.3
Unemployed	48.3	47.8	44.2	43.1	44.9	39.6	39.0
Student	181.9	175.0	183.4	188.5	173.3	182.8	188.1
Home duties	588.0	576.6	581.1	578.5	579.1	583.0	578.4
Retired	66.2	71.3	69.2	68.0	66.3	63.6	61.7
Others	34.8	30.6	28.5	28.5	30.4	30.5	29.1
Total females	1,432.0	1,444.9	1,452.6	1,459.3	1,466.8	1,474.0	1,478.7
All Persons							
At work	1,338.4	1,396.3	1,415.4	1,426.7	1,468.2	1,478.7	1,490.0
Unemployed	178.9	171.7	158.4	154.5	153.4	139.5	133.5
Student	358.0	343.4	359.8	366.6	338.2	351.8	363.4
Home duties	597.2	585.2	589.5	586.5	586.7	590.8	586.7
Retired	245.8	255.3	254.2	254.8	253.8	250.9	249.1
Others	96.7	87.8	78.9	80.6	83.8	86.1	85.3
Total persons	2,815.1	2,839.8	2,856.2	2,869.6	2,884.0	2,897.7	2,908.0

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

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ILO Economic Status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
Males							
In Employment :	903.5	2.6	19.7	0.4	2.7	2.7	931.6
full-time	862.7	1.2	1.3	0.1	0.2	2.3	867.7
part-time :	40.8	1.4	18.4	0.3	2.5	0.5	63.9
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	37.7	0.8	18.4	0.3	2.5	0.5	60.1
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	3.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7
Unemployed :	0.6	56.9	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.7	60.0
seeking full-time work	0.6	56.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.7	58.3
seeking part-time work	0.0	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.0	1.7
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	1.9	9.5	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.2	12.6
Others	1.6	25.5	154.8	7.5	183.2	52.5	425.2
Total males aged 15 or over	907.7	94.5	175.3	8.3	187.4	56.2	1,429.3
Females							
In Employment :	579.0	1.9	22.0	18.3	0.4	1.8	623.3
full-time	431.7	1.2	1.1	2.3	0.1	1.4	437.7
part-time :	147.3	0.8	20.8	16.0	0.3	0.5	185.6
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	144.8	0.5	20.8	15.9	0.3	0.5	182.8
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	2.4	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	2.8
Unemployed :	0.2	22.0	0.8	12.0	0.1	0.1	35.2
seeking full-time work	0.2	17.8	0.2	4.2	0.0	0.1	22.5
seeking part-time work	0.0	4.2	0.6	7.8	0.1	0.0	12.7
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	1.1	1.8	0.2	3.1	0.4	0.2	6.8
Others	2.0	13.3	165.2	545.0	60.9	26.9	813.4
Total females aged 15 or over	582.3	39.0	188.1	578.4	61.7	29.1	1,478.7
All Persons							
In Employment :	1,482.5	4.5	41.6	18.7	3.1	4.6	1,555.0
full-time	1,294.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.3	3.6	1,305.5
part-time :	188.1	2.2	39.2	16.3	2.7	0.9	249.5
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	182.5	1.3	39.2	16.2	2.7	0.9	242.9
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	5.5	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	6.6
Unemployed :	0.9	78.8	1.5	12.3	0.8	0.8	95.1
seeking full-time work	0.9	73.8	0.3	4.4	0.6	0.8	80.7
seeking part-time work	0.0	5.0	1.2	7.9	0.2	0.1	14.4
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	3.0	11.3	0.3	3.2	1.1	0.4	19.3
Others	3.6	38.8	320.0	552.5	244.1	79.5	1,238.5
Total persons aged 15 or over	1,490.0	133.5	363.4	586.7	249.1	85.3	2,908.0

Table 13 Total employment and private sector employment (ILO)

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	Labour Force Survey								Quarterly National Household Survey					
	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	Dec- Feb 99
1. Total employment (ILO)	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	1,555
2. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	175	159	157	150	147	149	141	142	135	135	136	137	136	138
3. Non-agricultural employment (1-2)	985	997	1,008	1,033	1,074	1,133	1,188	1,238	1,337	1,348	1,359	1,423	1,408	1,417
4. State-sponsored employment schemes *	16	14	16	17	31	41	40	41	40	40	41	41	40	41
5. Non-agricultural employment, excluding schemes (3-4)	969	983	992	1,016	1,043	1,092	1,148	1,197	1,297	1,308	1,318	1,383	1,368	1,376
6. Public sector employment *	287	288	288	289	291	294	301	297	296	301	300	304	301	306
7. Private sector employment (5-6)	682	695	704	727	752	798	847	900	1,001	1,007	1,018	1,079	1,067	1,070

* 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 1998, 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. To date, results have been published for all quarters from September-November 1997 up to September-November 1998. This release contains results for December-February 1998/1999.
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 were 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 "too 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.

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 group 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 six quarters 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 the summer quarter, around 40,000 of the quarterly increase in the labour force appears to be attributable to seasonality.

NUTS2 and NUTS3 regions

The regional classifications in this release are based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The NUTS3 regions correspond to the eight Regional Authorities established under the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order, 1993, which came into operation on 1 January 1994. The NUTS2 regions, which were proposed by Government and agreed by Eurostat in 1999, are groupings of the NUTS3 regions. The composition of the regions is set out below.

Border, Midlands and Western NUTS2 Region		Eastern and Southern NUTS2 Region	
Border	Cavan Donegal Leitrim Louth Monaghan Sligo	Dublin	Dublin Dun Laoighaire-Rathdown Fingal South Dublin
Midland	Laoighis Longford Offaly Westmeath	Mid-East	Kildare Meath Wicklow
West	Galway County Borough Galway County Mayo Roscommon	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