



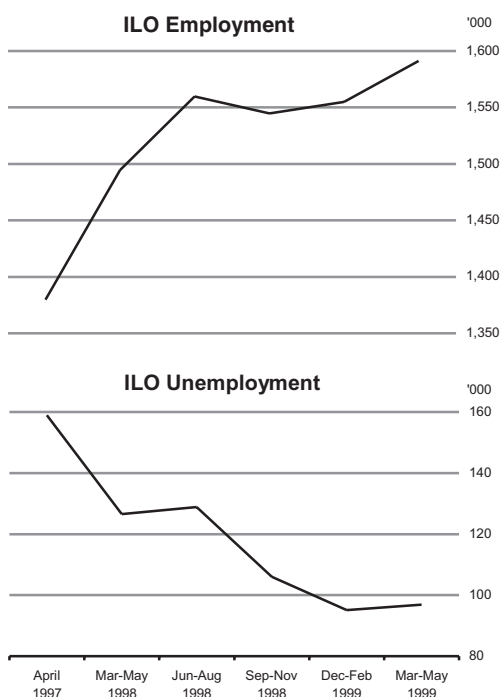
**Central Statistics Office**  
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh



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

13 October 1999

## Quarterly National Household Survey Second Quarter 1999



### ILO Labour Force

	In Employment	Unemployed	Labour Force
	'000		
<b>Dec-Feb 1998</b>	1,483.1	138.6	1,621.6
<b>Mar-May 1998</b>	1,494.5	126.6	1,621.1
<b>Jun-Aug 1998</b>	1,559.7	128.9	1,688.6
<b>Sep-Nov 1998</b>	1,544.7	106.0	1,650.7
<b>Dec-Feb 1999</b>	1,555.0	95.1	1,650.1
<b>Mar-May 1999</b>	1,591.1	96.9	1,688.1

### Employment up 96,600 in year

The latest figures from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), for the second quarter of 1999, show an annual increase of 96,600 in the number of persons at work. There were 1,591,100 persons in employment in the March-May quarter of 1999 compared with 1,494,500 in the corresponding quarter of 1998. Over one third of the annual growth in employment was due to strong growth in the second quarter of this year. *See Table 1.*

The annual employment increase of 96,600 comprised an increase of 47,400 for men and 49,300 for women. The number of full-time jobs grew by 79,700 and part-time employment increased by 16,900.

The number of persons unemployed fell by almost 30,000 in the year, to 96,900. The unemployment rate in quarter two of 1999 was 5.7% compared with 7.8% in the same quarter of 1998.

Overall, the labour force (comprising those at work and unemployed) grew by 67,000 to 1,688,100. Increased participation by both men and women accounted for around 40,000 of the total increase.

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## Labour force participation rates rising

The labour force represented 57.9% of the population aged 15 or over in the second quarter of 1999. This compares with 56.5% one year previously.

The participation rate for males increased from 69.4% to 70.2% and, for females, from 44.0% to 46.0% in the year. The greatest growth in participation rates has been for persons under 25, both male and female, and for married women in all age groups from 25 upwards. There is also evidence in the second quarter of greater involvement in the labour force by workers in their sixties. *See Table 5.*

The number of students in employment during term-time, at 51,200, was considerably higher than before. This meant that one in every seven students was recorded as having a job, the majority part-time. *See Table 13.*

## Services sector main source of jobs growth

Most of the labour force growth in the past year has been in the services sector, notably business-related services; transport, communication and storage; the wholesale and retail trade; and hotels and restaurants. Building and construction has also seen strong growth while there has been relatively little overall change in public service numbers. *See Table 2, which incorporates some revisions to the sectoral figures, and Background Notes.*

Private sector non-agricultural employment has grown by over 400,000 since 1991. *See Table 14.*

## Increase in both part-time and full-time jobs

Full-time jobs increased by almost 80,000 to reach 1,325,000 in the second quarter of 1999, while part-time employment grew by just under 17,000 in the year.

There were 266,500 persons in part-time employment in the second quarter of 1999. This was made up of some 197,000 female and just under 70,000 male part-time workers. The vast majority of those who describe their job as part-time indicate that they are satisfied with their hours of work - i.e. are classified as not underemployed. *See Table 1 and Background Notes.*

A new table on hours of work gives similar results to those in part-time and full-time employment. About 30% of women work for less than 30 hours per week whereas almost three quarters of men indicated that they work for 35 hours or more. *See Table 3.*

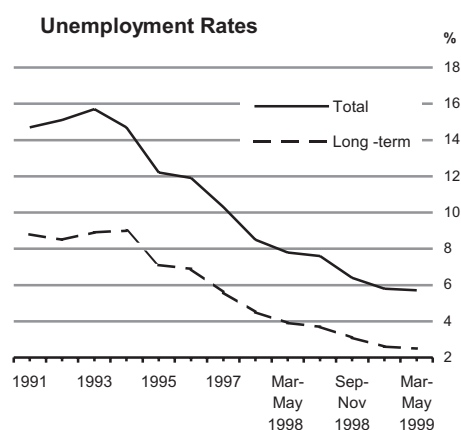
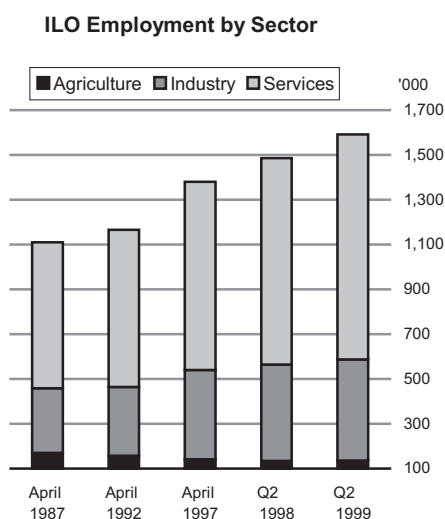
The number of persons working between 35 and 44 hours per week increased by over 90,000 in the year. However, the numbers with weekly hours of 45 or more fell by 26,000; the number of workers with variable hours grew by about 8,000 in the year.

## Unemployment rate of 5.7%

There were 96,900 persons unemployed in the second quarter of 1999. Although this was a decrease of almost 30,000 in the course of the previous year, it was slightly up on quarter one of 1999.

Between 1998 and 1999, unemployment fell for both men and women. In the second quarter of 1999 there were 59,400 men and 37,500 women unemployed. The majority of unemployed men are looking for full-time work while more than a third of unemployed women are seeking part-time work.

Long-term unemployment fell by 21,900 in the year while the number of persons unemployed for less than one year fell by 7,600. Long-term unemployment represented 2.5% of the labour force in quarter two. *See Tables 7, 8 and 9.*



The broadest labour supply indicator S3, which takes into account persons outside the labour force who indicate some interest in obtaining work, fell broadly in line with the main unemployment rate. This indicator decreased from 12.7% in the second quarter of 1998 to 10.3% in 1999. *See Table 11.*

## Regions

Employment increased and unemployment fell in all regions in the year to quarter two of 1999. The Border and South East regions had the highest rates of unemployment (over 8%) while the lowest unemployment rates were in Dublin (4.7%) and the Mid-East (4.2%). The latter two regions also have the highest rate of labour force participation, at 61.7%. The percentage in the labour force is lowest, at 54%, in the Midland region. *See Table 4b.*

## Principal Economic Status

The number of persons describing their usual situation as at work grew by 88,700 between the second quarters of 1998 and 1999 while the number giving their situation as unemployed fell by 29,500. Quarter two of 1999 also saw a fall of about 10,000 in the numbers describing themselves as engaged in home duties. *See Table 12.*

## 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**
<sup>1</sup> 000

ILO Economic Status	LFS	Quarterly National Household Survey				
	April 1997	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98	Dec- Feb 99	Mar- May 99
<b>Males</b>						
<b>In Labour Force</b>	<b>937.3</b>	<b>978.7</b>	<b>1,014.2</b>	<b>994.4</b>	<b>991.6</b>	<b>1,006.7</b>
In Employment :	840.3	899.9	934.9	928.4	931.6	947.3
full-time	794.9	829.4	865.0	863.1	867.7	877.5
part-time :	45.4	70.4	69.9	65.3	63.9	69.8
of which : <i>part-time, not underemployed *</i>	33.8	64.8	65.4	61.0	60.1	66.9
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	11.6	5.6	4.5	4.3	3.7	2.9
Unemployed :	97.1	78.8	79.3	66.0	60.0	59.4
seeking full-time work	94.5	75.8	75.4	64.2	58.3	56.8
seeking part-time work	2.6	3.0	3.9	1.8	1.7	2.5
<b>Not in Labour Force</b>	<b>445.8</b>	<b>431.7</b>	<b>403.0</b>	<b>429.3</b>	<b>437.7</b>	<b>426.8</b>
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	15.0	11.0	11.8	10.9	12.6	10.2
Others	430.8	420.7	391.2	418.4	425.2	416.6
<b>Total males aged 15 or over</b>	<b>1,383.1</b>	<b>1,410.3</b>	<b>1,417.2</b>	<b>1,423.8</b>	<b>1,429.3</b>	<b>1,433.4</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>70.2</b>
<b>Females</b>						
<b>In Labour Force</b>	<b>601.7</b>	<b>642.4</b>	<b>674.4</b>	<b>656.3</b>	<b>658.5</b>	<b>681.4</b>
In Employment :	539.7	594.6	624.8	616.3	623.3	643.9
full-time	415.2	415.4	441.4	432.4	437.7	447.2
part-time :	124.6	179.2	183.4	183.8	185.6	196.7
of which : <i>part-time, not underemployed *</i>	114.4	174.5	180.2	180.6	182.8	193.7
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	10.2	4.7	3.2	3.2	2.8	3.0
Unemployed :	62.0	47.8	49.6	40.0	35.2	37.5
seeking full-time work	42.1	29.6	34.1	25.2	22.5	23.3
seeking part-time work	19.9	18.2	15.5	14.8	12.7	14.3
<b>Not in Labour Force</b>	<b>830.3</b>	<b>816.9</b>	<b>792.4</b>	<b>817.7</b>	<b>820.1</b>	<b>800.6</b>
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	10.3	8.6	9.0	6.1	6.8	6.5
Others	820.1	808.3	783.4	811.6	813.4	794.1
<b>Total females aged 15 or over</b>	<b>1,432.0</b>	<b>1,459.3</b>	<b>1,466.8</b>	<b>1,474.0</b>	<b>1,478.7</b>	<b>1,482.0</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>46.0</b>
<b>All Persons</b>						
<b>In Labour Force</b>	<b>1,539.0</b>	<b>1,621.1</b>	<b>1,688.6</b>	<b>1,650.7</b>	<b>1,650.1</b>	<b>1,688.1</b>
In Employment :	1,379.9	1,494.5	1,559.7	1,544.7	1,555.0	1,591.1
full-time	1,210.0	1,244.9	1,306.4	1,295.5	1,305.5	1,324.6
part-time :	169.9	249.6	253.3	249.2	249.5	266.5
of which : <i>part-time, not underemployed *</i>	148.1	239.4	245.6	241.7	242.9	260.6
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	21.8	10.3	7.7	7.5	6.6	5.9
Unemployed :	159.0	126.6	128.9	106.0	95.1	96.9
seeking full-time work	136.6	105.4	109.5	89.4	80.7	80.1
seeking part-time work	22.4	21.2	19.4	16.6	14.4	16.8
<b>Not in Labour Force</b>	<b>1,276.1</b>	<b>1,248.5</b>	<b>1,195.4</b>	<b>1,247.1</b>	<b>1,257.9</b>	<b>1,227.4</b>
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	25.2	19.5	20.8	17.1	19.3	16.7
Others	1,250.9	1,229.0	1,174.6	1,230.0	1,238.5	1,210.7
<b>Total persons aged 15 or over</b>	<b>2,815.1</b>	<b>2,869.6</b>	<b>2,884.0</b>	<b>2,897.7</b>	<b>2,908.0</b>	<b>2,915.5</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>57.9</b>

**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	Mar- May 99
<b>Males</b>							
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	117.9	118.8	119.1	120.2	121.2	121.8	120.4
C-E Other production industries	204.1	207.3	210.8	218.5	216.6	214.2	215.7
F Construction	116.6	119.1	120.7	127.2	130.7	133.5	135.9
G Wholesale and retail trade	115.2	118.5	117.1	121.0	115.3	118.1	118.2
H Hotels and restaurants	37.2	40.3	40.5	43.3	40.1	39.2	41.8
I Transport, storage and communication	63.0	65.6	65.6	68.8	70.6	72.6	72.0
J-K Financial and other business services	84.3	84.5	85.5	91.2	90.8	92.9	99.2
L Public administration and defence	43.2	43.3	43.2	44.6	43.6	44.6	45.1
M-N Education and health	59.2	58.5	58.1	59.2	58.0	55.7	57.5
O Other services	40.8	38.8	39.2	40.9	41.5	39.0	41.5
<b>Total males</b>	<b>881.4</b>	<b>894.5</b>	<b>899.9</b>	<b>934.9</b>	<b>928.4</b>	<b>931.6</b>	<b>947.3</b>
<b>Females</b>							
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	16.6	15.5	15.9	15.3	15.1	15.5	15.5
C-E Other production industries	94.8	93.0	92.2	95.6	89.0	91.2	93.2
F Construction	5.8	5.3	5.4	5.7	6.0	5.8	6.1
G Wholesale and retail trade	92.7	95.6	94.3	103.4	99.9	101.2	105.1
H Hotels and restaurants	56.4	54.4	57.6	65.1	60.3	58.9	60.8
I Transport, storage and communication	20.2	20.3	21.3	22.7	23.3	24.1	23.9
J-K Financial and other business services	82.4	83.3	86.2	90.7	93.6	94.2	96.6
L Public administration and defence	26.2	27.1	27.5	27.8	26.8	26.4	29.3
M-N Education and health	148.8	148.4	148.8	149.7	153.3	157.7	163.0
O Other services	46.9	45.6	45.5	48.7	48.9	48.4	50.3
<b>Total females</b>	<b>590.9</b>	<b>588.6</b>	<b>594.6</b>	<b>624.8</b>	<b>616.3</b>	<b>623.3</b>	<b>643.9</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	134.5	134.4	135.0	135.5	136.3	137.3	135.9
C-E Other production industries	298.9	300.3	302.9	314.1	305.6	305.4	308.9
F Construction	122.4	124.3	126.2	132.9	136.7	139.3	142.1
G Wholesale and retail trade	207.8	214.1	211.4	224.4	215.3	219.4	223.3
H Hotels and restaurants	93.6	94.7	98.1	108.4	100.4	98.0	102.6
I Transport, storage and communication	83.2	85.8	86.9	91.5	93.9	96.8	96.0
J-K Financial and other business services	166.6	167.8	171.8	181.9	184.4	187.0	195.8
L Public administration and defence	69.4	70.4	70.7	72.4	70.4	70.9	74.4
M-N Education and health	208.1	206.9	206.9	209.0	211.3	213.4	220.4
O Other services	87.8	84.4	84.7	89.7	90.4	87.4	91.8
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>1,472.2</b>	<b>1,483.1</b>	<b>1,494.5</b>	<b>1,559.7</b>	<b>1,544.7</b>	<b>1,555.0</b>	<b>1,591.1</b>

\* Revised series, see Background Notes.

**Table 3 Persons in employment (ILO) classified by Sex and Usual Hours of Work**
<sup>1</sup> 000

Usual hours per week	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	Mar- May 99
<b>Males</b>								
1-9 hours	5.2	7.8	8.1	8.5	3.9	5.6	7.7	7.9
10-19	12.8	17.2	17.5	16.3	15.3	15.9	17.8	19.7
20-29	33.6	36.2	36.3	36.7	39.1	35.7	33.0	34.0
30-34	17.7	16.1	16.2	16.4	19.0	17.0	17.8	17.8
35-39	198.4	194.9	204.0	205.2	226.3	229.4	238.9	252.3
40-44	216.0	223.0	225.7	226.9	244.5	241.9	240.4	237.5
45 & over	249.0	241.0	233.5	236.7	237.1	230.2	219.2	215.4
Variable hours <sup>1</sup>	107.6	145.2	153.3	153.1	149.6	152.7	156.7	162.6
<b>Total males</b>	<b>840.3</b>	<b>881.4</b>	<b>894.5</b>	<b>899.9</b>	<b>934.9</b>	<b>928.4</b>	<b>931.6</b>	<b>947.3</b>
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>44.3</i>	<i>43.2</i>	<i>42.8</i>	<i>43.1</i>	<i>43.1</i>	<i>42.9</i>	<i>42.5</i>	<i>42.3</i>
<b>Females</b>								
1-9 hours	12.5	18.3	17.9	17.1	12.9	15.6	16.9	19.7
10-19	45.0	56.9	56.6	55.2	54.4	56.3	59.1	61.4
20-29	80.4	93.5	95.5	99.6	104.5	107.9	106.6	111.0
30-34	29.9	29.9	29.0	31.2	33.3	32.7	32.9	32.9
35-39	184.3	184.4	186.6	189.4	210.3	207.0	213.1	221.0
40-44	111.9	116.6	115.2	115.4	125.3	118.8	118.0	117.1
45 & over	43.9	44.5	44.0	43.1	41.7	40.2	38.0	38.7
Variable hours <sup>1</sup>	31.8	46.8	43.7	43.7	42.3	37.8	38.5	42.2
<b>Total females</b>	<b>539.7</b>	<b>590.9</b>	<b>588.5</b>	<b>594.6</b>	<b>624.8</b>	<b>616.3</b>	<b>623.3</b>	<b>643.9</b>
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>34.1</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>33.0</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>33.5</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>32.9</i>	<i>32.7</i>
<b>All persons</b>								
1-9 hours	17.7	26.1	26.0	25.6	16.9	21.3	24.6	27.7
10-19	57.8	74.1	74.0	71.5	69.8	72.2	76.9	81.0
20-29	114.0	129.7	131.8	136.3	143.6	143.5	139.6	145.1
30-34	47.6	46.0	45.2	47.6	52.2	49.8	50.7	50.7
35-39	382.7	379.3	390.6	394.6	436.6	436.4	452.0	473.3
40-44	327.9	339.6	340.9	342.2	369.8	360.6	358.4	354.6
45 & over	292.8	285.5	277.5	279.9	278.8	270.4	257.2	254.0
Variable hours <sup>1</sup>	139.4	192.0	197.0	196.8	191.9	190.5	195.6	204.7
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>1,379.9</b>	<b>1,472.2</b>	<b>1,483.1</b>	<b>1,494.5</b>	<b>1,559.7</b>	<b>1,544.7</b>	<b>1,555.0</b>	<b>1,591.1</b>
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>40.1</i>	<i>38.9</i>	<i>38.7</i>	<i>38.8</i>	<i>39.0</i>	<i>38.7</i>	<i>38.3</i>	<i>38.1</i>

<sup>1</sup> Includes *not stated*

**Table 4a Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS2 Regions<sup>1</sup> and ILO Economic Status**

Region	In Employment	Unemployed	In Labour Force	Unemployment Rate	Participation Rate
	000	000	000	%	%
<b>Border, Midlands and Western</b>					
LFS April 1997	351.3	41.3	392.6	10.5	53.2
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
Mar-May 1999	390.1	28.9	418.9	6.9	54.9
<b>Eastern and Southern</b>					
LFS April 1997	1,028.6	117.7	1,146.3	10.3	55.2
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
Mar-May 1999	1,201.1	68.0	1,269.1	5.4	59.0
<b>State</b>					
LFS April 1997	1,379.9	159.0	1,539.0	10.3	54.7
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
Mar-May 1999	1,591.1	96.9	1,688.1	5.7	57.9

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes

**Table 4b Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS3 Regions<sup>1</sup> and ILO Economic Status**

Region	In Employment	Unemployed	In Labour Force	Unemployment Rate	Participation Rate
	000	000	000	%	%
<b>Border</b>					
LFS April 1997	141.2	18.9	160.2	11.8	52.1
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
Mar-May 1999	156.4	14.9	171.3	8.7	54.2
<b>Midland</b>					
LFS April 1997	77.4	8.1	85.5	9.5	55.0
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
Mar-May 1999	80.8	5.6	86.4	6.5	54.0
<b>West</b>					
LFS April 1997	132.7	14.3	147.0	9.7	53.4
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
Mar-May 1999	152.9	8.3	161.3	5.2	56.2
<b>Dublin</b>					
LFS April 1997	430.8	53.8	484.5	11.1	57.4
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
Mar-May 1999	511.2	25.4	536.6	4.7	61.7
<b>Mid-East</b>					
LFS April 1997	142.7	13.1	155.8	8.4	57.6
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
Mar-May 1999	170.0	7.5	177.5	4.2	61.7
<b>Mid-West</b>					
LFS April 1997	114.7	12.8	127.5	10.0	52.5
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
Mar-May 1999	136.5	7.2	143.7	5.0	56.9
<b>South-East</b>					
LFS April 1997	139.6	17.9	157.4	11.3	52.7
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
Mar-May 1999	157.9	14.5	172.4	8.4	55.7
<b>South-West</b>					
LFS April 1997	200.9	20.2	221.1	9.1	52.5
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
Mar-May 1999	225.5	13.5	238.9	5.6	55.1
<b>State</b>					
LFS April 1997	1,379.9	159.0	1,539.0	10.3	54.7
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
Mar-May 1999	1,591.1	96.9	1,688.1	5.7	57.9

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes

**Table 5 Labour Force Participation Rates (ILO) classified by Sex, Age Group and Marital Status, March-May, 1999**

									%
Marital Status	Age Group							Total	
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64		65+
<b>Males</b>									
Single	33.1	77.9	92.0	85.4	72.4	57.5	53.7	21.8	65.6
Married	*	90.1	96.9	95.4	90.2	75.6	57.2	14.9	77.0
Separated or divorced	*	*	91.5	87.0	79.4	59.8	42.6	19.2	73.5
Widowed	*	*	90.8	84.3	80.1	58.9	38.7	7.1	23.3
<b>Total males</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>93.8</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>70.2</b>
<b>Females</b>									
Single	24.8	71.0	85.4	79.2	67.3	55.7	33.0	3.7	56.2
Married	*	57.3	66.3	58.6	46.3	29.9	17.9	2.8	45.3
Separated or divorced	*	*	57.8	66.9	57.9	49.7	25.1	6.5	56.2
Widowed	*	*	43.0	58.8	49.3	32.1	16.1	2.4	9.0
<b>Total females</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>46.0</b>
<b>All persons</b>									
Single	29.1	74.5	89.1	82.7	70.4	56.8	45.5	12.9	61.2
Married	14.7	66.8	79.7	76.8	68.5	53.5	38.6	9.8	61.2
Separated or divorced	*	77.2	66.7	73.8	66.1	53.8	32.6	12.8	62.5
Widowed	*	*	59.7	66.4	59.2	39.3	21.0	3.4	12.1
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>74.3</b>	<b>84.5</b>	<b>77.4</b>	<b>68.3</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>57.9</b>

\* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

**Table 6 Unemployment Rates (ILO) classified by Sex and Age Group**

Table 6. Unemployment Rates (UR) Classified by Sex and Age Group									%
	Age Group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
<b>Males</b>									
LFS April 1997	20.2	15.7	10.1	9.4	9.4	7.3	5.1	1.3	10.4
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
Mar-May 1999	10.6	7.6	5.4	5.7	6.0	4.8	3.2	0.4	5.9
<b>Females</b>									
LFS April 1997	23.4	12.5	9.5	9.0	9.4	5.6	4.0	6.3	10.3
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
Mar-May 1999	11.9	7.0	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.0	1.5	5.5
<b>All persons</b>									
LFS April 1997	21.5	14.2	9.8	9.2	9.4	6.8	4.8	2.4	10.3
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
Mar-May 1999	11.1	7.4	5.1	5.4	5.5	4.8	3.4	0.6	5.7

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

'000

Duration	LFS	Quarterly National Household Survey				
	April 1997	Mar-May-98	Jun-Aug-98	Sep-Nov-98	Dec-Feb-99	Mar-May-99
<b>Males</b>						
Less than 1 year	35.1	32.2	34.5	27.8	27.1	28.2
1 year and over	58.8	46.3	44.5	37.9	32.4	30.8
Not stated	3.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3
<b>Total males</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>59.4</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Less than 1 year	31.9	30.5	32.3	26.0	23.9	26.8
1 year and over	27.5	17.2	17.2	13.8	11.2	10.8
Not stated	2.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
<b>Total females</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>37.5</b>
<b>All persons</b>						
Less than 1 year	67.1	62.6	66.8	53.8	51.0	55.0
1 year and over	86.3	63.5	61.7	51.7	43.6	41.6
Not stated	5.7	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>159.0</b>	<b>126.6</b>	<b>128.9</b>	<b>106.0</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>96.9</b>

**Table 8 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by Sex, Age Group and Duration of Unemployment (ILO)**

'000

Duration	QNHS Mar-May 1998				QNHS Mar-May 1999			
	Age Group			Total	Age Group			Total
	15-24	25-44	45 or over		15-24	25-44	45 or over	
<b>Males</b>								
Less than 1 year	12.3	13.5	6.4	32.2	10.9	11.7	5.6	28.2
1 year and over	8.5	22.8	15.0	46.3	4.7	15.8	10.4	30.8
Not stated	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
<b>Total males</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>59.4</b>
<b>Females</b>								
Less than 1 year	11.6	14.0	4.9	30.5	9.7	12.9	4.2	26.8
1 year and over	4.3	8.3	4.7	17.2	3.0	5.0	2.8	10.8
Not stated	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total females</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>37.5</b>
<b>All persons</b>								
Less than 1 year	23.9	27.4	11.3	62.6	20.6	24.6	9.8	55.0
1 year and over	12.7	31.1	19.7	63.5	7.7	20.8	13.1	41.6
Not stated	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>126.6</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>96.9</b>

**Table 9 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
Mar-May 1999	1,688.1	96.9	41.6	5.7	2.5

**Table 10 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by detailed ILO Economic Status**

<sup>1</sup> 000

ILO Economic Status	Labour Force Survey				Quarterly National Household Survey						
	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	Mar- May 99
<b>In Labour Force</b>	<b>1,431.6</b>	<b>1,459.2</b>	<b>1,507.5</b>	<b>1,539.0</b>	<b>1,643.9</b>	<b>1,621.6</b>	<b>1,621.1</b>	<b>1,688.6</b>	<b>1,650.7</b>	<b>1,650.1</b>	<b>1,688.1</b>
In Employment :	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	1,591.1
full-time	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	1,324.6
part-time :	137.4	153.9	152.1	169.9	253.5	250.3	249.6	253.3	249.2	249.5	266.5
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	112.5	127.7	128.6	148.1	228.0	232.2	239.4	245.6	241.7	242.9	260.6
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	24.9	26.2	23.5	21.8	25.4	18.1	10.3	7.7	7.5	6.6	5.9
Unemployed :	211.0	177.4	179.0	159.0	171.6	138.6	126.6	128.9	106.0	95.1	96.9
seeking full-time work	186.4	153.5	151.3	136.6	132.3	113.1	105.4	109.5	89.4	80.7	80.1
seeking part-time work	24.6	24.0	27.7	22.4	39.3	25.4	21.2	19.4	16.6	14.4	16.8
<b>Not in Labour Force</b>	<b>1,255.7</b>	<b>1,264.2</b>	<b>1,259.2</b>	<b>1,276.1</b>	<b>1,196.1</b>	<b>1,234.5</b>	<b>1,248.5</b>	<b>1,195.4</b>	<b>1,247.1</b>	<b>1,257.9</b>	<b>1,227.4</b>
Marginally attached to the Labour Force :	29.7	27.5	20.2	25.2	17.7	19.2	19.5	20.8	17.1	19.3	16.7
Discouraged workers	19.1	16.4	13.6	16.9	12.3	14.1	14.1	16.2	13.3	14.1	12.6
Passive jobseekers	10.6	11.1	6.6	8.3	5.4	5.1	5.5	4.6	3.8	5.2	4.1
Others :	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	1,210.7
Persons not in education, who want work	61.1	61.3	54.1	71.9	52.0	56.3	58.7	55.6	52.6	57.7	61.8
Persons in education, who want work	78.6	74.8	51.3	82.3	30.6	47.2	57.6	36.4	36.1	35.3	46.6
All other persons	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	1,102.3
<b>Total persons aged 15 or over</b>	<b>2,687.3</b>	<b>2,723.4</b>	<b>2,766.7</b>	<b>2,815.1</b>	<b>2,839.8</b>	<b>2,856.2</b>	<b>2,869.6</b>	<b>2,884.0</b>	<b>2,897.7</b>	<b>2,908.0</b>	<b>2,915.5</b>

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 11 Indicators of potential labour supply**

Period	S1	S2	S3
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
Mar-May 1999	6.4	9.9	10.3

%

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 12 Population aged 15 years and over classified by Principal Economic Status<sup>1</sup>**

'000

Principal Economic Status	LFS April 1997	Mar-May 98	Jun-Aug 98	Sep-Nov 98	Dec-Feb 99	Mar-May 99
<b>Males</b>						
At work	825.6	874.0	895.5	904.2	907.7	916.9
Unemployed	130.6	111.3	108.5	99.9	94.5	89.6
Student	176.1	178.1	164.9	169.0	175.3	175.9
Home duties	9.2	8.0	7.5	7.8	8.3	9.1
Retired	179.5	186.8	187.5	187.3	187.4	185.6
Others	62.0	52.1	53.4	55.6	56.2	56.4
<b>Total males</b>	<b>1,383.1</b>	<b>1,410.3</b>	<b>1,417.2</b>	<b>1,423.8</b>	<b>1,429.3</b>	<b>1,433.4</b>
<b>Females</b>						
At work	512.8	552.7	572.7	574.5	582.3	598.5
Unemployed	48.3	43.1	44.9	39.6	39.0	35.4
Student	181.9	188.5	173.3	182.8	188.1	189.8
Home duties	588.0	578.5	579.1	583.0	578.4	566.8
Retired	66.2	68.0	66.3	63.6	61.7	61.3
Others	34.8	28.5	30.4	30.5	29.1	30.2
<b>Total females</b>	<b>1,432.0</b>	<b>1,459.3</b>	<b>1,466.8</b>	<b>1,474.0</b>	<b>1,478.7</b>	<b>1,482.0</b>
<b>All Persons</b>						
At work	1,338.4	1,426.7	1,468.2	1,478.7	1,490.0	1,515.4
Unemployed	178.9	154.5	153.4	139.5	133.5	125.0
Student	358.0	366.6	338.2	351.8	363.4	365.7
Home duties	597.2	586.5	586.7	590.8	586.7	575.9
Retired	245.8	254.8	253.8	250.9	249.1	246.9
Others	96.7	80.6	83.8	86.1	85.3	86.6
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>2,815.1</b>	<b>2,869.6</b>	<b>2,884.0</b>	<b>2,897.7</b>	<b>2,908.0</b>	<b>2,915.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Classification based on respondent's own subjective assessment, see Background Notes.

**Table 13 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by ILO Economic Status and by Principal Economic Status, March-May 1999**

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ILO Economic Status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
<b>Males</b>							
In Employment :	913.1	3.7	24.0	0.6	3.3	2.7	947.3
full-time	871.2	1.9	1.5	0.2	0.4	2.2	877.5
part-time :	41.8	1.8	22.4	0.4	2.9	0.5	69.8
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	39.3	1.4	22.4	0.4	2.9	0.5	66.9
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	2.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9
Unemployed :	0.6	54.6	2.0	0.4	0.8	1.0	59.4
seeking full-time work	0.6	53.4	1.3	0.2	0.5	0.9	56.8
seeking part-time work	0.0	1.1	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.1	2.5
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	0.9	8.0	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.2	10.2
Others	2.2	23.3	149.6	8.0	180.9	52.5	416.6
<b>Total males aged 15 or over</b>	<b>916.9</b>	<b>89.6</b>	<b>175.9</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>185.6</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>1,433.4</b>
<b>Females</b>							
In Employment :	594.4	1.8	27.2	17.4	0.3	2.7	643.9
full-time	440.0	1.0	1.9	2.4	0.1	1.8	447.2
part-time :	154.4	0.8	25.3	15.0	0.3	0.8	196.7
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	151.7	0.7	25.3	14.9	0.3	0.8	193.7
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	2.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	3.0
Unemployed :	0.4	19.0	2.7	14.8	0.1	0.5	37.5
seeking full-time work	0.3	15.7	1.9	5.2	0.0	0.3	23.3
seeking part-time work	0.1	3.3	0.9	9.7	0.1	0.2	14.3
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	1.2	1.2	0.4	3.2	0.3	0.1	6.5
Others	2.5	13.4	159.4	531.3	60.5	26.9	794.1
<b>Total females aged 15 or over</b>	<b>598.5</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>189.8</b>	<b>566.8</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>1,482.0</b>
<b>All Persons</b>							
In Employment :	1,507.4	5.4	51.2	18.0	3.6	5.4	1,591.1
full-time	1,311.2	2.8	3.5	2.6	0.5	4.0	1,324.6
part-time :	196.2	2.6	47.8	15.4	3.2	1.3	266.5
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	191.0	2.1	47.7	15.3	3.2	1.3	260.6
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	5.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	5.9
Unemployed :	1.0	73.6	4.7	15.3	0.9	1.4	96.9
seeking full-time work	0.9	69.1	3.1	5.3	0.5	1.1	80.1
seeking part-time work	0.1	4.4	1.6	9.9	0.4	0.3	16.8
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	2.1	9.2	0.7	3.3	0.9	0.4	16.7
Others	4.7	36.7	309.1	539.3	241.5	79.4	1,210.7
<b>Total persons aged 15 or over</b>	<b>1,515.4</b>	<b>125.0</b>	<b>365.7</b>	<b>575.9</b>	<b>246.9</b>	<b>86.6</b>	<b>2,915.5</b>

**Table 14 Total employment and private sector employment (ILO)**

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	Labour Force Survey					Quarterly National Household Survey								
	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	Mar- May 99
1. Total employment (ILO)	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	1,591
2. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	159	157	150	147	149	141	142	135	134	135	136	136	137	136
3. Non-agricultural employment (1-2)	997	1,008	1,033	1,074	1,133	1,188	1,238	1,337	1,349	1,360	1,424	1,409	1,418	1,455
4. State-sponsored employment schemes *	14	16	17	31	41	40	41	40	40	41	41	40	41	41
5. Non-agricultural employment, excluding schemes (3-4)	983	992	1,016	1,043	1,092	1,148	1,197	1,297	1,309	1,319	1,383	1,369	1,377	1,414
6. Public sector employment *	288	288	289	291	294	301	297	296	301	300	304	301	306	307
7. Private sector employment (5-6)	695	704	727	752	798	847	900	1,001	1,008	1,019	1,079	1,068	1,071	1,107

\* 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. The first QNHS results related to the September-November 1997 quarter and this release contains results for March-May 1999.

**Data Collection** Information is collected on laptop computers, using computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) software.

**Sample Design** 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.

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.

The survey results are weighted to agree with population estimates broken down by age, sex and region. The population estimates for April 1999 are published in a separate release.

**ILO Labour Force Classification** 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:

**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.

**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.

**Inactive Population (not in labour force):** All other persons.

The labour force comprises persons employed plus unemployed.

**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.

The QNHS sectoral series in Table 2, in each quarter up to quarter one of 1999, have been revised following improvements to the activity and occupation coding procedures in the survey. This has had a marginal effect on the allocation of the employment figures between sectors but has not altered the main trends at sectoral level.

**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 11 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, 1997-1998

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.

<b>Border, Midlands and Western NUTS2 Region</b>		<b>Eastern and Southern NUTS2 Region</b>	
<b>Border</b>			
	Cavan	<b>Dublin</b>	Dublin
		Donegal	Dun Laoighaire-Rathdown
		Leitrim	Fingal
		Louth	South Dublin
		Monaghan	
		Sligo	<b>Mid-East</b>
	<b>Midland</b>	Laoighis	Kildare
		Longford	Meath
		Offaly	Wicklow
		Westmeath	
	<b>West</b>	Galway County Borough	<b>Mid-West</b>
		Galway County	Clare
		Mayo	Limerick County Borough
		Roscommon	Limerick County
			Tipperary North Riding
			<b>South-East</b>
			Carlow
			Kilkenny
			Tipperary South Riding
			Waterford County Borough
			Waterford County
			Wexford
			<b>South-West</b>
			Cork County Borough
			Cork County
			Kerry