

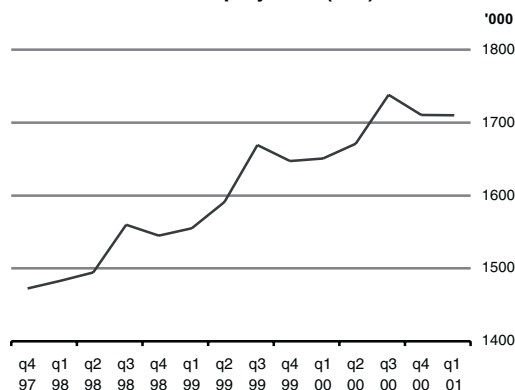
Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

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

29 May 2001

Quarterly National Household Survey First Quarter 2001

Numbers in employment (ILO)



ILO Labour Force

	'000		
	In Employment	Unemployed	Labour Force
Dec-Feb 2000	1,650.6	81.5	1,732.1
Mar-May 2000	1,670.7	74.9	1,745.6
Jun-Aug 2000	1,737.9	77.7	1,815.6
Sep-Nov 2000	1,710.3	68.8	1,779.1
Dec-Feb 2001	1,709.9	65.6	1,775.5
<i>Change in quarter</i>	-0.4	-3.2	-3.6
<i>Change in year</i>	+59.3	-15.9	+43.4

Unemployment rate falls to 3.7%

The unemployment rate fell to 3.7% in the first quarter of 2001, compared with 3.9% in Q4/2000 and 4.7% in Q1/2000. There were 65,600 persons unemployed in Q1/2001, an annual fall of 15,900 from the Q1/2000 figure of 81,500 persons. The annual decrease in unemployment was evenly split between long-term and short-term unemployment. *See tables 1 and 15.*

Employment stood at 1,709,900 in Q1/2001, virtually unchanged from the previous quarter. On an annual basis, employment grew by 59,300 persons. The number of men in employment grew by 28,200 and the number of women by 31,100. In the previous year, there had been exceptionally high levels of employment growth, with an increase of 95,600 in the year to Q1/2000. *See table 1.*

The labour force (employed plus unemployed) grew by 43,400 in the year to Q1/2001, to a total of 1,775,500 persons. This accounted for 58.9% of all persons aged 15 or over, compared with 58.6% one year previously. The labour force participation rate for males was 70.6% and for females 47.6%.

A new table, table 22, gives the latest available figures for all EU countries. This table shows that between the second quarters of 1998 and 1999 Ireland's employment level and labour force grew at a much faster rate than the rest of the EU, with employment growth exceeding 6% and labour force growth of more than 4%. The corresponding EU-15 growth rates were 2.0% and 1.1% respectively. The Irish growth rates have moderated considerably since then – to 3.6% for employment and 2.5% for the labour force in the most recent period – but they are still significantly above the most recently observed rates in most other EU countries.

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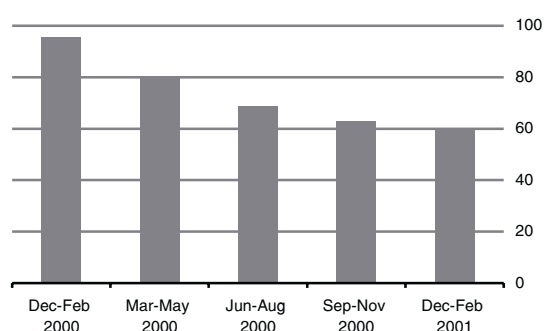
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Annual Increase in employment ('000)



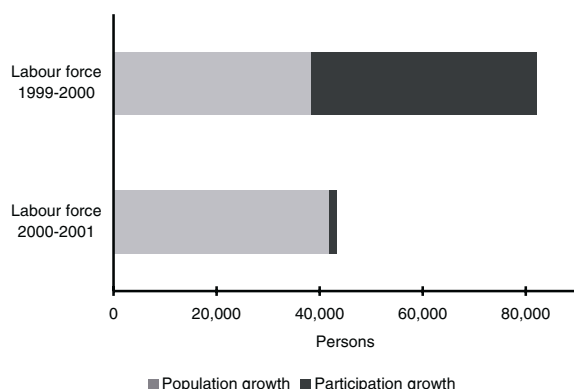
Unemployment falls to 65,600

The annual fall of 15,900 in unemployment, to 65,600 persons in Q1/2001, reduced the unemployment rate to 3.7%. There were 38,900 males and 26,700 females unemployed. Almost all (36,900) of unemployed males were looking for full-time work; while 15,500 unemployed females were looking for full-time and 11,200 for part-time work. *See table 1.*

The unemployment total of 65,600 comprised 20,000 persons aged under 25; 29,900 aged between 25 and 44; and 15,700 persons aged 45 or over. The number of people unemployed in the 25 to 44 age group fell by 9,300 in the year. *See table 16.*

The annual decrease of 15,900 was split evenly between long-term and short-term unemployment. There were 21,500 persons unemployed for a year or more in Q1/2001, accounting for 1.2% of the labour force. This was 8,200 below the corresponding figure at the start of 2000. About half of the long-term unemployed (10,300 persons) were aged between 25 and 44, and a third (7,100) were aged 45 or over. The number of persons unemployed for less than a year fell by 8,200, on an annual basis, to 43,500. *See tables 15 and 16.*

Labour force growth, Q1/1999-Q1/2001



Labour force growing more moderately

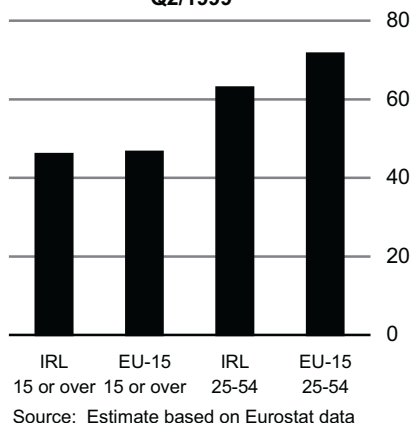
Ireland's employment and labour force growth rates have been among the fastest in the EU in recent years. *See table 22.* The highest annual growth figures were recorded during 1999 and in the year to Q1/2000, when employment increased by 95,600 and the labour force grew by 82,000. Subsequently, employment has continued to grow at a more moderate pace. In the twelve months to Q1/2001, employment increased by 59,300 and the labour force grew by 43,400.

The increasing population of working age is estimated to have added 38,300 to the labour force between Q1/1999 and Q1/2000, with the balance of 43,800 being due to higher labour force participation. However, between Q1/2000 and Q1/2001, almost all of the increase in the labour force was due to population growth, which added 41,900 persons to the labour force. Only 1,500 of the increase was attributable to higher labour force participation.

The labour force represented 58.9% of all persons aged 15 or over in Q1/2001, compared with 58.6% in 2000 and 56.7% in 1999. The participation rate for males fell slightly, from 70.7% to 70.6% in the past year. For females, the participation rate increased in the year from 46.8% to 47.6%. Overall, participation increased in all age bands from 35 to 64. It also increased slightly for those aged 15 to 19 but fell in the other age groups, most notably for those aged 20 to 24. *See tables 1 and 8.*

Compared with the rest of the EU, the latest comparable labour force survey figures for all 15 Member States - which are for spring 1999 - show that Ireland's female labour force participation rate of 46% is close to the EU-15 average of 46.6%. For women aged 25 to 54 - the age group most likely to be in the labour force - the female participation rate was 63.1%, compared with 71.6% for the EU-15. *See graph.*

Female labour force participation, Q2/1999



Source: Estimate based on Eurostat data

Largest growth in construction

Employment grew between Q1/2000 and Q1/2001 in all sectors except Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, which fell by 12,100 and the Other Services sector (-2,500). The biggest growth areas were Construction (+20,200); Education and Health (+15,900); Wholesale and Retail Trade (+13,000); and Financial and Other Business Services (+11,300). For females, employment grew by 13,100 in the Education and Health sectors and by 9,700 in Wholesale and Retail Trade. *See table 2.*

There were 288,500 self-employed persons in Q1/2001, some 6,000 less than one year previously. This reflected falling numbers in agriculture. The number with employees increased by 3,500 while the number without employees fell by 9,500. In Q1/2001 there were 100,400 self-employed persons with employees and 188,100 without employees. *See table 5.*

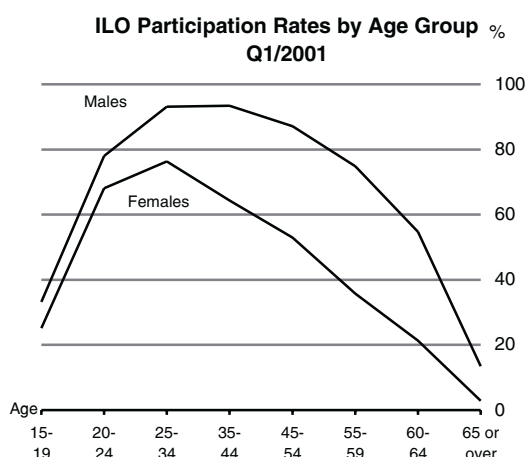
There were 1,402,700 employees in Q1/2001, an annual increase of 66,800. The number of assisting relatives, in agriculture and other sectors, fell by 1,600 to 18,600. *See table 5.*

Increase of 49,400 in full-time employment

Full-time employment increased by 49,400 in the year to reach 1,426,900. The number of males in full-time jobs grew by 29,900 and the number of females by 19,500. Part-time employment grew by 9,900 in the year to 283,000, with an increase of 11,600 females in part-time work and 1,800 fewer male part-time workers. About three quarters of part-time workers (215,100) are female. *See table 1.*

There was an annual increase of 51,600 in the number of persons working 35 to 39 hours per week. The number of persons working 45 hours or more decreased by 11,400 and the numbers working variable hours fell by 6,100. *See table 4.*

The average working week was 37.8 hours in Q1/2001, compared with 38.1 hours one year earlier and 38.3 two years earlier. For men the average working week was 41.8 hours compared with 32.6 hours for women. *See table 4.*



Regional comparisons

Employment grew by 20,100 (+5.0%) in the Border, Midland and Western region and by 39,200 (+3.1%) in the Southern and Eastern region in the year to Q1/2001. Unemployment fell in both regions: by 5,000 (-19.1%) in the Border, Midlands and West and by 11,000 (-19.9%) in the Eastern and Southern region. *See table 6a.*

At NUTS 3 level, employment grew and unemployment fell in all regions in the year. The largest annual employment increase, of 22,500 persons, was in the Dublin region. The unemployment rate was also lowest in the Dublin region at 2.6%, while it was highest in the Border region at 5.8%. *See table 6b.*

The labour force increased in the year in all regions except the Mid-West, where it decreased slightly. The labour force participation rate was highest in Dublin and the Mid-East region and lowest in the Midlands region. *See table 6b.*

Principal Economic Status

The number of persons describing their usual situation as at work grew by 56,200 to 1,635,500 in the year to Q1/2001. This comprised an increase of 26,100 males and 30,200 females. The numbers describing themselves as unemployed fell by 13,600 to 103,400. *See table 19.*

The number of female students grew by 9,400 in the year and the number of males grew by 2,600. Over 16% (or 60,400) of students had a job in quarter one, the majority of these part-time. *See tables 19 and 20.*

The number of persons describing themselves as engaged on home duties fell by 8,500 to 560,400 in the year.

Table 1 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex and ILO economic status
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ILO economic status	Dec- Feb 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00	Jun- Aug 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01
Males							
In labour force	991.6	1,030.5	1,029.3	1,034.9	1,069.7	1,048.8	1,046.9
In employment :	931.6	977.5	979.8	989.9	1,023.0	1,007.4	1,008.0
full-time	867.7	908.5	910.2	918.2	954.8	939.1	940.1
part-time :	63.9	69.0	69.7	71.7	68.2	68.3	67.9
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	60.1	66.3	67.9	70.0	66.6	67.2	66.8
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	3.7	2.7	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.1	1.1
Unemployed :	60.0	53.0	49.5	44.9	46.6	41.4	38.9
seeking full-time work	58.3	50.2	47.3	42.6	43.7	39.2	36.9
seeking part-time work	1.7	2.8	2.2	2.3	3.0	2.2	2.0
Not in labour force	437.7	418.1	425.6	422.7	394.4	428.8	435.6
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	12.6	9.4	9.6	7.8	8.9	7.8	8.7
Others	425.2	408.7	416.0	414.9	385.5	421.0	426.8
Total males aged 15 or over	1,429.3	1,448.6	1,455.0	1,457.5	1,464.0	1,477.6	1,482.4
Unemployment rate %	6.0	5.1	4.8	4.3	4.4	3.9	3.7
Participation rate %	69.4	71.1	70.7	71.0	73.1	71.0	70.6
Females							
In labour force	658.5	705.6	702.8	710.8	745.9	730.3	728.6
In employment :	623.3	669.9	670.8	680.8	714.8	702.9	701.9
full-time	437.7	469.0	467.3	471.9	505.1	491.9	486.8
part-time :	185.6	200.8	203.5	208.9	209.7	211.0	215.1
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	182.8	198.8	201.7	207.0	208.0	209.6	214.0
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	2.8	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.1
Unemployed :	35.2	35.7	32.0	30.0	31.1	27.4	26.7
seeking full-time work	22.5	22.8	19.5	18.7	19.7	16.2	15.5
seeking part-time work	12.7	13.0	12.6	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.2
Not in labour force	820.1	793.6	800.0	794.3	765.0	795.7	802.2
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	6.8	6.6	6.2	4.4	5.6	4.4	4.1
Others	813.4	786.9	793.8	789.9	759.4	791.3	798.1
Total females aged 15 or over	1,478.7	1,499.2	1,502.8	1,505.0	1,510.9	1,526.0	1,530.8
Unemployment rate %	5.3	5.1	4.6	4.2	4.2	3.8	3.7
Participation rate %	44.5	47.1	46.8	47.2	49.4	47.9	47.6
All persons							
In labour force	1,650.1	1,736.1	1,732.1	1,745.6	1,815.6	1,779.1	1,775.5
In employment :	1,555.0	1,647.4	1,650.6	1,670.7	1,737.9	1,710.3	1,709.9
full-time	1,305.5	1,377.5	1,377.5	1,390.1	1,460.0	1,431.0	1,426.9
part-time :	249.5	269.9	273.1	280.6	277.9	279.3	283.0
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	242.9	265.2	269.5	277.0	274.6	276.8	280.8
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	6.6	4.7	3.6	3.6	3.3	2.5	2.2
Unemployed :	95.1	88.7	81.5	74.9	77.7	68.8	65.6
seeking full-time work	80.7	73.0	66.8	61.3	63.3	55.3	52.4
seeking part-time work	14.4	15.7	14.8	13.6	14.4	13.5	13.2
Not in labour force	1,257.9	1,211.6	1,225.7	1,217.0	1,159.3	1,224.5	1,237.7
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	19.3	16.0	15.8	12.2	14.5	12.2	12.8
Others	1,238.5	1,195.7	1,209.9	1,204.7	1,144.8	1,212.3	1,224.9
Total persons aged 15 or over	2,908.0	2,947.8	2,957.8	2,962.6	2,975.0	3,003.6	3,013.2
Unemployment rate %	5.8	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.3	3.9	3.7
Participation rate %	56.7	58.9	58.6	58.9	61.0	59.2	58.9

* See Background Notes

Table 2 Persons in employment (ILO) classified by sex and NACE economic sector

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Economic sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Dec- Feb 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00	Jun- Aug 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01
Males							
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	121.8	124.4	118.8	116.3	116.6	109.4	108.1
C-E Other production industries	214.2	214.6	213.2	213.1	223.1	220.4	220.8
F Construction	133.5	148.0	151.9	159.2	168.2	169.8	171.1
G Wholesale and retail trade	118.1	122.9	124.8	125.7	131.3	127.3	128.2
H Hotels and restaurants	39.2	41.9	43.5	44.0	47.1	44.9	43.4
I Transport, storage and communication	72.6	74.7	75.7	75.5	77.7	78.0	79.6
J-K Financial and other business services	92.9	103.1	104.1	107.1	107.9	105.8	109.7
L Public administration and defence	44.6	46.7	45.9	45.8	47.0	45.8	45.1
M-N Education and health	55.7	58.2	58.7	60.6	59.7	63.5	61.4
O Other services	39.0	43.1	43.1	42.7	44.4	42.5	40.4
Total males	931.6	977.5	979.8	989.9	1,023.0	1,007.4	1,008.0
Females							
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	15.5	15.6	15.0	14.6	14.1	13.3	13.5
C-E Other production industries	91.2	99.4	100.3	96.8	103.3	100.6	97.5
F Construction	5.8	6.8	7.8	7.2	7.3	8.3	8.8
G Wholesale and retail trade	101.2	106.3	108.6	110.1	122.1	115.3	118.3
H Hotels and restaurants	58.9	63.2	61.9	65.0	71.1	65.1	63.2
I Transport, storage and communication	24.1	25.2	25.5	25.2	28.2	27.2	27.6
J-K Financial and other business services	94.2	102.2	102.7	105.0	111.0	110.5	108.4
L Public administration and defence	26.4	31.6	30.9	32.0	31.7	32.7	33.3
M-N Education and health	157.7	167.6	168.0	174.0	172.8	178.2	181.1
O Other services	48.4	52.0	50.2	50.8	53.2	51.5	50.2
Total females	623.3	669.9	670.8	680.8	714.8	702.9	701.9
All persons							
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	137.3	140.0	133.8	130.9	130.7	122.7	121.7
C-E Other production industries	305.4	314.0	313.5	309.9	326.4	321.0	318.3
F Construction	139.3	154.8	159.7	166.3	175.5	178.1	179.9
G Wholesale and retail trade	219.4	229.3	233.5	235.8	253.4	242.6	246.5
H Hotels and restaurants	98.0	105.1	105.4	109.0	118.3	110.0	106.6
I Transport, storage and communication	96.8	99.9	101.2	100.8	105.9	105.2	107.2
J-K Financial and other business services	187.0	205.3	206.8	212.1	218.8	216.3	218.1
L Public administration and defence	70.9	78.3	76.8	77.8	78.8	78.5	78.4
M-N Education and health	213.4	225.8	226.7	234.7	232.5	241.8	242.6
O Other services	87.4	95.1	93.2	93.4	97.6	94.1	90.7
Total persons	1,555.0	1,647.4	1,650.6	1,670.7	1,737.9	1,710.3	1,709.9

Table 3 Persons in employment (ILO) classified by sex and occupation

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Broad Occupational Group	Dec- Feb 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00	Jun- Aug 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01
Males							
1. Managers and administrators	220.7	226.2	222.0	219.6	219.4	217.2	218.8
2. Professional	82.7	87.5	87.8	90.6	91.8	94.0	94.5
3. Associate professional and technical	53.7	59.9	60.6	62.4	65.2	64.2	66.6
4. Clerical and secretarial	48.8	51.2	51.1	50.0	52.5	50.4	50.1
5. Craft and related	197.3	209.3	211.8	213.3	217.3	219.1	218.2
6. Personal and protective service	63.9	66.8	68.8	69.3	71.9	68.4	66.9
7. Sales	49.1	52.1	53.5	54.4	55.2	55.0	55.6
8. Plant and machine operatives	123.9	127.2	128.4	134.1	143.3	140.6	143.4
9. Other	91.6	97.3	95.8	96.1	106.4	98.5	93.8
Total males	931.6	977.5	979.8	989.9	1,023.0	1,007.4	1,008.0
Females							
1. Managers and administrators	70.0	75.2	77.5	81.4	84.4	83.4	84.8
2. Professional	72.3	75.3	75.4	75.9	73.9	78.3	77.6
3. Associate professional and technical	71.6	74.4	74.7	76.8	77.0	80.5	79.6
4. Clerical and secretarial	143.6	153.4	152.5	154.4	162.6	160.5	159.5
5. Craft and related	16.0	16.6	15.8	14.6	14.9	16.3	15.2
6. Personal and protective service	82.3	93.0	92.6	96.4	103.7	96.9	97.9
7. Sales	74.7	79.5	79.6	82.3	90.9	84.2	87.3
8. Plant and machine operatives	40.9	47.1	48.0	45.8	51.0	48.9	47.1
9. Other	51.9	55.4	54.6	53.1	56.5	53.9	52.9
Total females	623.3	669.9	670.8	680.8	714.8	702.9	701.9
All persons							
1. Managers and administrators	290.7	301.5	299.5	301.1	303.8	300.6	303.6
2. Professional	155.0	162.7	163.2	166.5	165.7	172.2	172.1
3. Associate professional and technical	125.3	134.3	135.3	139.2	142.1	144.7	146.2
4. Clerical and secretarial	192.4	204.7	203.6	204.4	215.1	210.9	209.7
5. Craft and related	213.2	225.9	227.5	227.9	232.3	235.4	233.3
6. Personal and protective service	146.3	159.8	161.4	165.7	175.6	165.3	164.8
7. Sales	123.8	131.6	133.1	136.7	146.0	139.3	142.9
8. Plant and machine operatives	164.8	174.3	176.4	180.0	194.3	189.6	190.5
9. Other	143.5	152.7	150.4	149.2	162.8	152.4	146.7
Total persons	1,555.0	1,647.4	1,650.6	1,670.7	1,737.9	1,710.3	1,709.9

Table 4 Persons in employment (ILO) classified by sex and usual hours of work
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Usual hours per week	Dec- Feb 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00	Jun- Aug 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01
Males							
1-9 hours	7.7	7.8	8.2	7.8	3.9	6.8	7.8
10-19	17.8	16.8	18.4	20.1	14.0	18.3	19.6
20-29	33.0	36.7	36.1	36.7	37.1	37.4	35.5
30-34	17.8	17.2	17.0	17.9	18.2	15.7	16.1
35-39	238.9	277.8	278.6	289.3	310.9	307.8	311.6
40-44	240.4	240.5	243.4	238.9	256.2	248.6	249.2
45 & over	219.2	216.3	216.2	209.6	216.9	210.4	208.5
Variable hours ¹	156.7	164.5	161.8	169.7	165.7	162.3	159.7
Total males	931.6	977.5	979.8	989.9	1,023.0	1,007.4	1,008.0
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>42.5</i>	<i>42.2</i>	<i>42.1</i>	<i>42.0</i>	<i>42.4</i>	<i>42.0</i>	<i>41.8</i>
Females							
1-9 hours	16.9	19.4	19.2	19.3	13.1	17.7	18.3
10-19	59.1	60.8	63.2	64.7	61.0	66.1	67.3
20-29	106.6	117.7	120.1	120.9	129.7	128.1	131.6
30-34	32.9	33.2	31.9	31.7	34.4	32.9	34.2
35-39	213.1	241.0	241.1	243.2	266.7	261.9	259.7
40-44	118.0	114.4	110.2	112.2	125.6	117.5	113.4
45 & over	38.0	38.7	41.7	41.8	40.8	38.6	38.0
Variable hours ¹	38.5	44.8	43.4	47.0	43.6	40.2	39.4
Total females	623.3	669.9	670.8	680.8	714.8	702.9	701.9
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>32.9</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>32.7</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>33.3</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>32.6</i>
All persons							
1-9 hours	24.6	27.1	27.4	27.1	17.0	24.6	26.1
10-19	76.9	77.6	81.6	84.8	75.0	84.4	86.9
20-29	139.6	154.4	156.2	157.6	166.8	165.5	167.1
30-34	50.7	50.5	48.9	49.6	52.6	48.6	50.3
35-39	452.0	518.8	519.7	532.4	577.6	569.7	571.3
40-44	358.4	354.8	353.6	351.2	381.8	366.1	362.6
45 & over	257.2	255.0	257.9	251.5	257.7	249.0	246.5
Variable hours ¹	195.6	209.2	205.2	216.6	209.3	202.5	199.1
Total persons	1,555.0	1,647.4	1,650.6	1,670.7	1,737.9	1,710.3	1,709.9
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>38.3</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>38.0</i>	<i>38.4</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>37.8</i>

¹ Includes 'not stated'

Table 5 Persons in employment classified by employment status
¹ 000

Employment Status	Dec-Feb 99	Sep-Nov 99	Dec-Feb 00	Mar-May 00	Jun-Aug 00	Sep-Nov 00	Dec-Feb 01
Males							
Self employed (with paid employees)	73.7	74.4	78.4	80.1	79.9	82.4	81.9
Self employed (with no paid employees)	163.5	169.2	167.7	165.2	162.3	161.0	161.1
Employee	686.4	724.6	725.9	735.8	770.6	755.9	757.4
Assisting relative	8.0	9.4	7.9	8.8	10.1	8.1	7.6
Total males	931.6	977.5	979.8	989.9	1,023.0	1,007.4	1,008.0
Females							
Self employed (with paid employees)	17.5	17.6	18.6	18.2	18.1	18.7	18.5
Self employed (with no paid employees)	28.3	29.1	29.9	30.0	28.2	27.8	27.0
Employee	566.0	610.4	610.0	619.8	657.2	645.5	645.3
Assisting relative	11.6	12.7	12.3	12.8	11.3	10.9	11.1
Total females	623.3	669.9	670.8	680.8	714.8	702.9	701.9
All persons							
Self employed (with paid employees)	91.2	92.0	96.9	98.3	98.1	101.1	100.4
Self employed (with no paid employees)	191.7	198.3	197.6	195.2	190.5	188.8	188.1
Employee	1,252.4	1,335.1	1,335.9	1,355.6	1,427.9	1,401.4	1,402.7
Assisting relative	19.6	22.0	20.2	21.6	21.4	19.0	18.6
Total persons	1,555.0	1,647.4	1,650.6	1,670.7	1,737.9	1,710.3	1,709.9

Table 6a Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS2 regions¹ and ILO economic status

Region	In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	¹ 000	¹ 000	¹ 000	%	%
Border, Midland and Western					
Dec-Feb 1999	377.4	28.0	405.5	6.9	53.3
Sep-Nov 1999	401.5	27.7	429.1	6.4	55.6
Dec-Feb 2000	404.0	26.2	430.2	6.1	55.6
Mar-May 2000	409.8	24.9	434.7	5.7	55.9
Jun-Aug 2000	426.6	24.6	451.2	5.5	57.6
Sep-Nov 2000	424.2	21.2	445.4	4.8	56.4
Dec-Feb 2001	424.1	21.2	445.3	4.8	56.2
Eastern and Southern					
Dec-Feb 1999	1,177.5	67.1	1,244.6	5.4	58.0
Sep-Nov 1999	1,245.9	61.1	1,307.0	4.7	60.1
Dec-Feb 2000	1,246.6	55.4	1,301.9	4.3	59.6
Mar-May 2000	1,260.9	50.0	1,310.9	3.8	60.0
Jun-Aug 2000	1,311.3	53.1	1,364.4	3.9	62.3
Sep-Nov 2000	1,286.1	47.6	1,333.7	3.6	60.2
Dec-Feb 2001	1,285.8	44.4	1,330.2	3.3	59.9
State					
Dec-Feb 1999	1,555.0	95.1	1,650.1	5.8	56.7
Sep-Nov 1999	1,647.4	88.7	1,736.1	5.1	58.9
Dec-Feb 2000	1,650.6	81.5	1,732.1	4.7	58.6
Mar-May 2000	1,670.7	74.9	1,745.6	4.3	58.9
Jun-Aug 2000	1,737.9	77.7	1,815.6	4.3	61.0
Sep-Nov 2000	1,710.3	68.8	1,779.1	3.9	59.2
Dec-Feb 2001	1,709.9	65.6	1,775.5	3.7	58.9

¹ See Background Notes

Table 6b Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS3 regions¹ and ILO economic status

Region		In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
		'000	'000	'000	%	%
Border	Dec-Feb 1999	151.9	13.9	165.7	8.4	52.6
	Sep-Nov 1999	158.0	14.7	172.7	8.5	54.0
	Dec-Feb 2000	158.6	12.5	171.1	7.3	53.5
	Mar-May 2000	161.7	11.5	173.1	6.6	54.1
	Jun-Aug 2000	167.1	10.5	177.6	5.9	55.2
	Sep-Nov 2000	167.5	9.6	177.1	5.4	54.9
	Dec-Feb 2001	167.6	10.3	177.9	5.8	55.1
Midlands	Dec-Feb 1999	77.5	5.9	83.3	7.0	51.8
	Sep-Nov 1999	83.9	5.3	89.2	5.9	55.0
	Dec-Feb 2000	82.9	5.8	88.7	6.6	55.1
	Mar-May 2000	85.2	4.9	90.2	5.5	55.9
	Jun-Aug 2000	87.6	5.3	92.9	5.7	57.4
	Sep-Nov 2000	86.9	4.3	91.2	4.7	55.7
	Dec-Feb 2001	86.1	3.5	89.6	3.9	54.9
West	Dec-Feb 1999	148.1	8.3	156.4	5.3	55.0
	Sep-Nov 1999	159.6	7.7	167.3	4.6	57.7
	Dec-Feb 2000	162.6	7.9	170.4	4.6	58.3
	Mar-May 2000	162.9	8.5	171.5	5.0	57.8
	Jun-Aug 2000	171.8	8.8	180.7	4.9	60.3
	Sep-Nov 2000	169.7	7.3	177.0	4.1	58.3
	Dec-Feb 2001	170.4	7.5	177.9	4.2	58.0
Dublin	Dec-Feb 1999	504.3	26.4	530.7	5.0	61.0
	Sep-Nov 1999	525.3	21.8	547.1	4.0	62.3
	Dec-Feb 2000	528.1	21.6	549.7	3.9	62.4
	Mar-May 2000	533.8	19.0	552.8	3.4	62.7
	Jun-Aug 2000	552.0	19.2	571.2	3.4	64.7
	Sep-Nov 2000	548.8	16.7	565.5	2.9	63.4
	Dec-Feb 2001	550.6	14.5	565.0	2.6	63.2
Mid-East	Dec-Feb 1999	163.0	7.5	170.5	4.4	60.0
	Sep-Nov 1999	175.2	7.8	182.9	4.3	62.5
	Dec-Feb 2000	176.3	7.4	183.6	4.0	62.3
	Mar-May 2000	177.6	6.9	184.5	3.7	62.4
	Jun-Aug 2000	186.4	7.4	193.7	3.8	64.6
	Sep-Nov 2000	183.5	6.5	190.0	3.4	62.6
	Dec-Feb 2001	185.2	6.2	191.4	3.2	62.9
Mid-West	Dec-Feb 1999	133.1	7.1	140.2	5.1	55.8
	Sep-Nov 1999	143.4	7.7	151.1	5.1	59.2
	Dec-Feb 2000	143.8	6.4	150.2	4.3	58.4
	Mar-May 2000	144.9	6.1	151.0	4.0	58.7
	Jun-Aug 2000	149.6	6.7	156.4	4.3	60.8
	Sep-Nov 2000	145.8	6.0	151.7	3.9	58.2
	Dec-Feb 2001	143.9	5.9	149.8	3.9	57.1
South-East	Dec-Feb 1999	156.0	13.3	169.3	7.8	54.9
	Sep-Nov 1999	166.8	12.0	178.8	6.7	57.1
	Dec-Feb 2000	165.6	10.2	175.9	5.8	56.0
	Mar-May 2000	166.9	8.5	175.4	4.9	56.2
	Jun-Aug 2000	175.0	9.6	184.6	5.2	58.9
	Sep-Nov 2000	168.1	8.7	176.9	4.9	56.1
	Dec-Feb 2001	168.6	8.5	177.1	4.8	55.9
South-West	Dec-Feb 1999	221.1	12.8	233.9	5.5	54.0
	Sep-Nov 1999	235.2	11.8	247.0	4.8	56.5
	Dec-Feb 2000	232.8	9.8	242.6	4.0	55.3
	Mar-May 2000	237.7	9.5	247.1	3.8	56.5
	Jun-Aug 2000	248.3	10.2	258.5	3.9	59.0
	Sep-Nov 2000	240.0	9.8	249.7	3.9	56.5
	Dec-Feb 2001	237.4	9.4	246.8	3.8	55.7
State	Dec-Feb 1999	1,555.0	95.1	1,650.1	5.8	56.7
	Sep-Nov 1999	1,647.4	88.7	1,736.1	5.1	58.9
	Dec-Feb 2000	1,650.6	81.5	1,732.1	4.7	58.6
	Mar-May 2000	1,670.7	74.9	1,745.6	4.3	58.9
	Jun-Aug 2000	1,737.9	77.7	1,815.6	4.3	61.0
	Sep-Nov 2000	1,710.3	68.8	1,779.1	3.9	59.2
	Dec-Feb 2001	1,709.9	65.6	1,775.5	3.7	58.9

¹ See Background Notes

Table 7 Labour force participation rates (ILO) classified by sex, age group and marital status, December-February 2001

and marital status, December 2001									%
Marital Status	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Single	33.2	77.8	92.2	85.9	73.5	59.3	51.1	18.0	67.3
Married	*	87.7	95.0	96.0	90.2	78.0	55.7	14.0	76.2
Separated or divorced	*	*	91.9	87.6	77.7	70.5	50.8	18.1	73.1
Widowed	*	*	*	82.2	77.1	69.4	54.3	5.4	23.0
Total males	33.2	78.0	93.1	93.4	87.1	74.9	54.7	13.5	70.6
Females									
Single	25.1	68.3	85.5	81.7	69.7	48.2	31.8	4.6	58.1
Married	*	63.3	65.5	60.2	50.2	33.2	19.5	3.2	46.1
Separated or divorced	*	*	63.9	68.7	62.4	46.9	33.3	*	59.1
Widowed	*	*	72.5	61.6	52.6	38.3	21.5	2.0	9.6
Total females	25.1	68.1	76.3	64.3	52.9	35.8	21.3	2.8	47.6
All persons									
Single	29.3	73.1	89.2	84.1	72.1	55.2	44.6	11.8	63.0
Married	*	69.3	78.4	77.8	70.2	56.3	37.9	9.3	61.1
Separated or divorced	*	*	71.6	74.9	68.5	56.0	41.8	11.6	64.4
Widowed	*	*	77.0	68.0	59.5	46.8	28.4	2.6	12.4
Total persons	29.2	73.0	84.8	78.7	70.1	55.6	38.0	7.4	58.9

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 8 Labour force participation rates (ILO) classified by sex and age group

Percentage of population aged 15 years and over, by age group and sex										%
		Age group								Total
		15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males										
Dec-Feb 1999		30.8	77.6	93.3	92.8	86.9	72.4	53.6	14.2	69.4
Sep-Nov 1999		34.1	80.5	94.0	93.2	88.6	74.2	53.1	15.4	71.1
Dec-Feb 2000		32.8	78.9	94.0	93.3	88.0	74.8	53.5	15.0	70.7
Mar-May 2000		34.1	79.0	94.0	93.4	88.0	73.9	53.7	14.7	71.0
Jun-Aug 2000		45.3	85.8	94.2	93.8	87.6	73.6	54.8	13.4	73.1
Sep-Nov 2000		34.3	79.1	93.4	93.6	87.7	73.8	55.0	13.6	71.0
Dec-Feb 2001		33.2	78.0	93.1	93.4	87.1	74.9	54.7	13.5	70.6
Females										
Dec-Feb 1999		22.3	70.3	73.9	60.0	47.8	30.8	17.7	2.7	44.5
Sep-Nov 1999		27.3	72.1	76.2	62.3	50.1	34.4	19.5	2.7	47.1
Dec-Feb 2000		25.0	70.6	76.3	62.3	51.4	34.6	19.1	2.4	46.8
Mar-May 2000		26.2	67.6	77.2	63.1	52.2	35.0	19.5	2.9	47.2
Jun-Aug 2000		38.6	76.5	76.6	63.1	51.9	34.9	19.6	2.9	49.4
Sep-Nov 2000		27.2	70.1	76.4	63.7	53.4	35.3	20.2	2.5	47.9
Dec-Feb 2001		25.1	68.1	76.3	64.3	52.9	35.8	21.3	2.8	47.6
All persons										
Dec-Feb 1999		26.7	74.0	83.6	76.2	67.5	51.8	35.5	7.7	56.7
Sep-Nov 1999		30.8	76.3	85.1	77.6	69.5	54.5	36.2	8.2	58.9
Dec-Feb 2000		29.0	74.8	85.2	77.6	69.8	55.0	36.2	7.8	58.6
Mar-May 2000		30.3	73.4	85.7	78.0	70.2	54.7	36.5	8.0	58.9
Jun-Aug 2000		42.0	81.2	85.4	78.2	69.9	54.4	37.1	7.4	61.0
Sep-Nov 2000		30.8	74.6	85.0	78.5	70.6	54.8	37.5	7.3	59.2
Dec-Feb 2001		29.2	73.0	84.8	78.7	70.1	55.6	38.0	7.4	58.9

Table 9 Number of persons in the labour force (ILO) classified by sex and age group

' 000

600									
	Age group								
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	Total
Males									
Dec-Feb 1999	54.7	122.5	256.4	237.2	195.9	60.7	38.3	25.9	991.6
Sep-Nov 1999	59.8	132.3	265.4	240.5	202.3	63.8	38.5	28.0	1,030.5
Dec-Feb 2000	56.9	128.8	267.0	241.3	203.3	65.3	39.2	27.5	1,029.3
Mar-May 2000	58.5	129.6	269.2	241.9	204.1	64.9	39.6	27.0	1,034.9
Jun-Aug 2000	77.2	141.7	272.6	243.7	203.8	65.7	40.5	24.6	1,069.7
Sep-Nov 2000	58.4	133.1	274.4	244.9	205.0	67.0	40.8	25.1	1,048.8
Dec-Feb 2001	56.1	131.9	275.3	244.5	204.2	69.0	40.8	25.1	1,046.9
Females									
Dec-Feb 1999	37.7	108.9	204.1	156.8	106.3	25.3	12.8	6.6	658.5
Sep-Nov 1999	45.6	117.5	215.4	164.4	113.1	28.8	14.2	6.5	705.6
Dec-Feb 2000	41.0	113.6	216.2	165.0	117.4	29.5	14.2	5.8	702.8
Mar-May 2000	42.5	109.6	219.3	167.8	119.9	30.0	14.5	7.1	710.8
Jun-Aug 2000	62.1	124.6	219.2	168.4	119.8	30.4	14.6	6.9	745.9
Sep-Nov 2000	44.0	117.3	221.8	171.0	123.7	31.3	15.1	6.1	730.3
Dec-Feb 2001	40.3	114.7	222.6	173.0	123.1	32.2	16.0	6.8	728.6
All persons									
Dec-Feb 1999	92.4	231.4	460.5	394.0	302.2	86.1	51.1	32.5	1,650.1
Sep-Nov 1999	105.4	249.7	480.8	404.9	315.4	92.6	52.7	34.6	1,736.1
Dec-Feb 2000	98.0	242.5	483.2	406.4	320.6	94.7	53.4	33.3	1,732.1
Mar-May 2000	101.0	239.3	488.5	409.7	324.1	94.9	54.1	34.1	1,745.6
Jun-Aug 2000	139.2	266.2	491.8	412.1	323.6	96.1	55.1	31.5	1,815.6
Sep-Nov 2000	102.3	250.4	496.2	415.9	328.7	98.3	55.9	31.2	1,779.1
Dec-Feb 2001	96.4	246.6	498.0	417.4	327.2	101.3	56.7	31.9	1,775.5

Table 10 Number of persons in employment (ILO) classified by sex and age group

' 000

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Dec-Feb 1999	49.1	112.3	242.3	222.6	184.3	58.0	37.1	25.8	931.6
Sep-Nov 1999	54.1	122.3	253.8	228.9	192.2	61.3	37.2	27.8	977.5
Dec-Feb 2000	51.5	121.6	254.1	230.5	193.5	63.0	38.3	27.1	979.8
Mar-May 2000	52.8	124.0	257.3	231.6	195.5	63.0	38.8	26.9	989.9
Jun-Aug 2000	69.2	134.0	261.8	234.4	195.8	63.8	39.6	24.5	1,023.0
Sep-Nov 2000	53.0	126.1	265.2	235.6	197.2	65.2	40.1	25.0	1,007.4
Dec-Feb 2001	51.3	125.4	265.9	236.8	196.9	66.7	39.9	25.1	1,008.0
Females									
Dec-Feb 1999	33.7	100.6	195.4	149.4	101.1	24.1	12.4	6.6	623.3
Sep-Nov 1999	41.4	109.7	205.7	157.3	107.7	27.7	13.8	6.5	669.9
Dec-Feb 2000	37.0	106.9	207.9	157.8	112.9	28.6	13.9	5.7	670.8
Mar-May 2000	38.1	103.6	211.3	161.7	115.7	29.2	14.2	7.0	680.8
Jun-Aug 2000	55.3	117.5	211.3	163.4	116.7	29.6	14.3	6.8	714.8
Sep-Nov 2000	39.8	111.0	214.7	165.8	120.2	30.6	14.8	6.0	702.9
Dec-Feb 2001	37.1	109.2	214.6	168.2	119.5	31.4	15.4	6.5	701.9
All persons									
Dec-Feb 1999	82.9	212.9	437.6	372.0	285.5	82.2	49.6	32.4	1,555.0
Sep-Nov 1999	95.5	232.0	459.5	386.3	299.9	89.0	51.0	34.2	1,647.4
Dec-Feb 2000	88.5	228.5	462.1	388.3	306.5	91.6	52.2	32.8	1,650.6
Mar-May 2000	90.9	227.5	468.6	393.4	311.3	92.2	53.0	33.9	1,670.7
Jun-Aug 2000	124.6	251.4	473.0	397.7	312.5	93.5	53.8	31.3	1,737.9
Sep-Nov 2000	92.8	237.2	479.9	401.4	317.4	95.8	54.8	31.1	1,710.3
Dec-Feb 2001	88.4	234.5	480.5	405.0	316.3	98.1	55.4	31.6	1,709.9

Table 11 Number of persons unemployed (ILO) classified by sex and age group

' 000

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Dec-Feb 1999	5.5	10.2	14.1	14.5	11.6	2.7	1.2	0.1	60.0
Sep-Nov 1999	5.7	10.0	11.6	11.6	10.1	2.5	1.2	0.2	53.0
Dec-Feb 2000	5.4	7.2	12.9	10.8	9.7	2.2	0.9	0.3	49.5
Mar-May 2000	5.7	5.7	11.9	10.3	8.6	1.9	0.8	0.0	44.9
Jun-Aug 2000	7.9	7.7	10.8	9.4	8.0	1.9	0.9	0.1	46.6
Sep-Nov 2000	5.4	7.0	9.2	9.3	7.8	1.9	0.8	0.1	41.4
Dec-Feb 2001	4.8	6.5	9.5	7.6	7.3	2.3	0.8	0.1	38.9
Females									
Dec-Feb 1999	4.0	8.3	8.8	7.4	5.2	1.2	0.4	0.0	35.2
Sep-Nov 1999	4.2	7.8	9.7	7.1	5.4	1.1	0.4	0.1	35.7
Dec-Feb 2000	4.0	6.7	8.3	7.2	4.5	0.9	0.2	0.1	32.0
Mar-May 2000	4.4	6.1	8.1	6.0	4.2	0.8	0.2	0.1	30.0
Jun-Aug 2000	6.8	7.1	7.9	5.0	3.1	0.8	0.3	0.1	31.1
Sep-Nov 2000	4.2	6.3	7.1	5.3	3.5	0.7	0.3	0.0	27.4
Dec-Feb 2001	3.1	5.5	8.0	4.8	3.6	0.9	0.5	0.2	26.7
All persons									
Dec-Feb 1999	9.5	18.6	22.9	21.9	16.8	3.9	1.5	0.1	95.1
Sep-Nov 1999	9.9	17.8	21.3	18.6	15.5	3.6	1.7	0.3	88.7
Dec-Feb 2000	9.4	14.0	21.2	18.0	14.2	3.1	1.1	0.5	81.5
Mar-May 2000	10.1	11.7	19.9	16.4	12.8	2.7	1.0	0.1	74.9
Jun-Aug 2000	14.7	14.8	18.7	14.3	11.1	2.6	1.3	0.2	77.7
Sep-Nov 2000	9.6	13.3	16.4	14.5	11.3	2.5	1.1	0.1	68.8
Dec-Feb 2001	7.9	12.0	17.5	12.4	10.9	3.2	1.4	0.3	65.6

Table 12 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									
Dec-Feb 1999	10.1	8.4	5.5	6.1	5.9	4.5	3.0	0.4	6.0
Sep-Nov 1999	9.6	7.6	4.4	4.8	5.0	3.9	3.2	0.9	5.1
Dec-Feb 2000	9.5	5.6	4.8	4.5	4.8	3.4	2.3	1.2	4.8
Mar-May 2000	9.8	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	2.9	2.1	0.1	4.3
Jun-Aug 2000	10.3	5.4	4.0	3.8	3.9	2.8	2.3	0.3	4.4
Sep-Nov 2000	9.2	5.2	3.4	3.8	3.8	2.8	1.9	0.4	3.9
Dec-Feb 2001	8.6	4.9	3.4	3.1	3.6	3.3	2.0	0.2	3.7
Females									
Dec-Feb 1999	10.6	7.6	4.3	4.7	4.9	4.6	2.8	0.0	5.3
Sep-Nov 1999	9.2	6.6	4.5	4.3	4.7	3.8	3.1	1.1	5.1
Dec-Feb 2000	9.8	5.9	3.8	4.4	3.8	3.0	1.7	2.3	4.6
Mar-May 2000	10.3	5.5	3.7	3.6	3.5	2.8	1.6	1.3	4.2
Jun-Aug 2000	10.9	5.7	3.6	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.0	4.2
Sep-Nov 2000	9.5	5.3	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.2	2.2	0.5	3.8
Dec-Feb 2001	7.8	4.8	3.6	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.0	3.7
All persons									
Dec-Feb 1999	10.3	8.0	5.0	5.6	5.5	4.5	3.0	0.3	5.8
Sep-Nov 1999	9.4	7.1	4.4	4.6	4.9	3.9	3.1	0.9	5.1
Dec-Feb 2000	9.6	5.8	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.3	2.1	1.4	4.7
Mar-May 2000	10.0	4.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	2.9	1.9	0.4	4.3
Jun-Aug 2000	10.5	5.6	3.8	3.5	3.4	2.8	2.3	0.7	4.3
Sep-Nov 2000	9.3	5.3	3.3	3.5	3.4	2.6	2.0	0.4	3.9
Dec-Feb 2001	8.2	4.9	3.5	3.0	3.3	3.1	2.4	0.8	3.7

Table 13 Labour force situation of married females

	Age group								
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	Total
Total Married Women ('000)									
Dec-Feb 1999	0.2	5.9	135.8	204.5	176.6	63.7	48.7	83.7	719.1
Sep-Nov 1999	0.4	6.3	132.1	202.8	179.8	64.6	48.8	84.9	719.5
Dec-Feb 2000	0.5	5.9	130.2	203.4	182.9	65.6	49.7	84.8	723.0
Mar-May 2000	0.6	4.7	124.5	202.8	183.9	65.7	51.2	85.4	718.8
Jun-Aug 2000	0.4	5.8	125.8	203.7	184.9	67.0	52.4	86.6	726.6
Sep-Nov 2000	0.4	5.8	126.7	204.5	184.0	68.5	53.6	88.3	731.8
Dec-Feb 2001	0.3	6.0	125.1	201.7	185.7	68.8	54.6	88.6	730.7
of which In Labour Force ('000)									
Dec-Feb 1999	0.0	3.3	87.6	115.5	78.8	18.3	8.3	2.6	314.5
Sep-Nov 1999	0.1	3.6	88.5	118.3	85.0	20.5	8.5	2.8	327.1
Dec-Feb 2000	0.0	3.4	87.1	119.1	89.2	21.0	8.5	2.3	330.6
Mar-May 2000	0.1	2.5	83.8	119.9	91.0	21.2	8.8	2.9	330.2
Jun-Aug 2000	0.1	3.2	82.9	120.3	90.4	21.8	9.4	2.7	330.9
Sep-Nov 2000	0.1	3.8	82.9	122.0	93.3	22.7	9.7	2.6	337.2
Dec-Feb 2001	0.1	3.8	81.9	121.4	93.2	22.8	10.6	2.8	336.7
of which In Employment ('000)									
Dec-Feb 1999	0.0	3.1	84.7	110.9	75.6	17.6	8.2	2.6	302.7
Sep-Nov 1999	0.1	3.3	84.7	114.0	81.2	19.8	8.3	2.8	314.1
Dec-Feb 2000	0.0	3.1	84.1	114.4	85.9	20.4	8.3	2.3	318.6
Mar-May 2000	0.1	2.4	81.3	116.1	88.3	20.7	8.6	2.9	320.4
Jun-Aug 2000	0.1	2.9	80.5	117.4	88.6	21.3	9.2	2.6	322.6
Sep-Nov 2000	0.1	3.4	80.7	119.0	91.0	22.2	9.6	2.6	328.8
Dec-Feb 2001	0.1	3.5	79.1	118.4	90.6	22.4	10.3	2.8	327.2
Participation rates (%)									
Dec-Feb 1999	*	56.0	64.6	56.5	44.7	28.7	16.9	3.1	43.7
Sep-Nov 1999	*	56.6	67.0	58.3	47.3	31.7	17.4	3.3	45.5
Dec-Feb 2000	*	57.1	66.9	58.6	48.8	32.1	17.1	2.7	45.7
Mar-May 2000	*	54.4	67.3	59.1	49.5	32.3	17.1	3.4	45.9
Jun-Aug 2000	*	54.5	65.9	59.1	48.9	32.6	18.0	3.1	45.5
Sep-Nov 2000	*	64.8	65.5	59.7	50.7	33.1	18.2	3.0	46.1
Dec-Feb 2001	*	63.3	65.5	60.2	50.2	33.2	19.5	3.2	46.1

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation

Note: Table contains revised figures

Table 14 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
Jun-Aug 1999	1,770.3	101.1	37.9	5.7	2.1
Sep-Nov 1999	1,736.1	88.7	36.0	5.1	2.1
Dec-Feb 2000	1,732.1	81.5	29.7	4.7	1.7
Mar-May 2000	1,745.6	74.9	27.4	4.3	1.6
Jun-Aug 2000	1,815.6	77.7	25.7	4.3	1.4
Sep-Nov 2000	1,779.1	68.8	24.2	3.9	1.4
Dec-Feb 2001	1,775.5	65.6	21.5	3.7	1.2

Table 15 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex and duration of unemployment (ILO)

l 000

Duration	Dec- Feb 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00	Jun- Aug 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01
Males							
Less than 1 year	27.1	27.0	27.2	24.1	26.6	22.6	22.6
1 year and over	32.4	26.0	22.2	20.7	19.9	18.6	15.9
Not stated	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4
Total males	60.0	53.0	49.5	44.9	46.6	41.4	38.9
Females							
Less than 1 year	23.9	25.8	24.5	23.3	25.2	21.9	20.9
1 year and over	11.2	10.0	7.5	6.7	5.9	5.5	5.6
Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Total females	35.2	35.7	32.0	30.0	31.1	27.4	26.7
All persons							
Less than 1 year	51.0	52.7	51.7	47.3	51.9	44.5	43.5
1 year and over	43.6	36.0	29.7	27.4	25.7	24.2	21.5
Not stated	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6
Total persons	95.1	88.7	81.5	74.9	77.7	68.8	65.6

Table 16 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex, age group and duration of unemployment (ILO)

l 000

Duration	Dec-Feb 2000				Dec-Feb 2001			
	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	10.0	11.8	5.4	27.2	8.5	9.3	4.7	22.6
1 year and over	2.6	11.8	7.8	22.2	2.7	7.5	5.7	15.9
Not stated	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4
Total males	12.6	23.7	13.2	49.5	11.3	17.1	10.5	38.9
Females								
Less than 1 year	8.6	11.9	3.9	24.5	7.2	9.9	3.8	20.9
1 year and over	2.1	3.5	1.8	7.5	1.4	2.8	1.4	5.6
Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Total females	10.8	15.5	5.7	32.0	8.7	12.8	5.2	26.7
All persons								
Less than 1 year	18.7	23.8	9.3	51.7	15.7	19.2	8.5	43.5
1 year and over	4.8	15.3	9.6	29.7	4.2	10.3	7.1	21.5
Not stated	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.6
Total persons	23.4	39.2	18.9	81.5	20.0	29.9	15.7	65.6

Table 17 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by detailed ILO economic status

¹ 000

ILO economic status	Dec- Feb 99	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00	Jun- Aug 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01
In labour force	1,650.1	1,688.1	1,770.3	1,736.1	1,732.1	1,745.6	1,815.6	1,779.1	1,775.5
In employment :	1,555.0	1,591.1	1,669.2	1,647.4	1,650.6	1,670.7	1,737.9	1,710.3	1,709.9
full-time	1,305.5	1,324.6	1,392.1	1,377.5	1,377.5	1,390.1	1,460.0	1,431.0	1,426.9
part-time :	249.5	266.5	277.2	269.9	273.1	280.6	277.9	279.3	283.0
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	242.9	260.6	272.2	265.2	269.5	277.0	274.6	276.8	280.8
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	6.6	5.9	4.9	4.7	3.6	3.6	3.3	2.5	2.2
Unemployed :	95.1	96.9	101.1	88.7	81.5	74.9	77.7	68.8	65.6
seeking full-time work	80.7	80.1	83.4	73.0	66.8	61.3	63.3	55.3	52.4
seeking part-time work	14.4	16.8	17.7	15.7	14.8	13.6	14.4	13.5	13.2
Not in labour force	1,257.9	1,227.4	1,158.2	1,211.6	1,225.7	1,217.0	1,159.3	1,224.5	1,237.7
Marginally attached to the labour force :	19.3	16.7	17.7	16.0	15.8	12.2	14.5	12.2	12.8
Discouraged workers	14.1	12.6	13.2	13.1	12.8	9.6	11.5	9.5	10.1
Passive jobseekers	5.2	4.1	4.5	2.9	3.0	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.7
Others :	1,238.5	1,210.7	1,140.5	1,195.7	1,209.9	1,204.7	1,144.8	1,212.3	1,224.9
Persons not in education, who want work ¹	57.7	61.8	67.0	64.3	61.5	63.0	66.8	69.5	63.3
Persons in education, who want work ¹	35.3	46.6	32.7	39.0	39.3	51.5	33.7	39.9	37.6
All other persons	1,145.5	1,102.3	1,040.7	1,092.4	1,109.0	1,090.3	1,044.4	1,102.9	1,124.0
Total persons aged 15 or over	2,908.0	2,915.5	2,928.4	2,947.8	2,957.8	2,962.6	2,975.0	3,003.6	3,013.2

¹ 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 18 Indicators of potential labour supply

				%
Period	S1	S2	S3	
1997	11.3	15.7	17.0	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.
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	
Jun-Aug 1999	6.4	10.0	10.3	
Sep-Nov 1999	5.8	9.3	9.6	
Dec-Feb 2000	5.4	8.8	9.0	
Mar-May 2000	4.8	8.2	8.4	
Jun-Aug 2000	4.9	8.4	8.6	
Sep-Nov 2000	4.4	8.1	8.2	
Dec-Feb 2001	4.2	7.7	7.8	

Table 19 Population aged 15 years and over classified by Principal Economic Status¹

								'000
Principal Economic Status	Dec-Feb 99	Sep-Nov 99	Dec-Feb 00	Mar-May 00	Jun-Aug 00	Sep-Nov 00	Dec-Feb 01	
Males								
At work	907.7	948.0	952.6	957.2	972.7	975.4	978.7	
Unemployed	94.5	80.4	79.7	74.9	74.6	72.3	70.0	
Student	175.3	172.4	173.2	175.5	161.5	171.8	175.8	
Home duties	8.3	8.8	8.5	8.6	8.6	7.6	8.4	
Retired	187.4	183.7	187.0	187.5	190.9	192.7	193.7	
Others	56.2	55.2	53.9	53.8	55.8	57.6	55.8	
Total males	1,429.3	1,448.6	1,455.0	1,457.5	1,464.0	1,477.6	1,482.4	
Females								
At work	582.3	623.4	626.7	630.9	651.7	657.3	656.9	
Unemployed	39.0	35.5	37.3	34.9	39.3	35.0	33.4	
Student	188.1	186.7	191.1	199.1	178.6	192.6	200.5	
Home duties	578.4	563.5	560.4	552.8	554.2	554.0	552.0	
Retired	61.7	61.4	61.1	60.7	60.8	60.5	60.8	
Others	29.1	28.7	26.1	26.6	26.4	26.5	27.1	
Total females	1,478.7	1,499.2	1,502.8	1,505.0	1,510.9	1,526.0	1,530.8	
All persons								
At work	1,490.0	1,571.4	1,579.3	1,588.1	1,624.3	1,632.8	1,635.5	
Unemployed	133.5	115.9	117.0	109.8	113.9	107.3	103.4	
Student	363.4	359.2	364.4	374.6	340.1	364.4	376.3	
Home duties	586.7	572.2	568.9	561.4	562.8	561.7	560.4	
Retired	249.1	245.1	248.1	248.2	251.7	253.2	254.6	
Others	85.3	83.9	80.0	80.4	82.1	84.2	83.0	
Total persons	2,908.0	2,947.8	2,957.8	2,962.6	2,975.0	3,003.6	3,013.2	

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

Table 20 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by ILO Economic Status and by Principal Economic Status, December-February 2001

' 000

ILO economic status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
Males							
In employment :	974.5	2.5	26.9	0.2	3.0	0.9	1,008.0
full-time	935.1	1.7	1.9	0.1	0.7	0.5	940.1
part-time :	39.4	0.7	25.0	0.0	2.4	0.4	67.9
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	38.6	0.5	24.9	0.0	2.4	0.4	66.8
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Unemployed :	0.9	35.3	1.2	0.2	1.0	0.4	38.9
seeking full-time work	0.9	34.4	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.4	36.9
seeking part-time work	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.0	2.0
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.6	6.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	8.7
Others	1.7	25.9	147.6	8.0	189.5	54.1	426.8
Total males aged 15 or over	978.7	70.0	175.8	8.4	193.7	55.8	1,482.4
Females							
In employment :	652.0	2.2	33.5	12.9	0.4	0.8	701.9
full-time	481.7	1.4	1.5	1.7	0.0	0.5	486.8
part-time :	170.4	0.8	32.1	11.1	0.4	0.4	215.1
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	169.5	0.7	32.1	11.0	0.4	0.3	214.0
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.1
Unemployed :	0.8	14.3	1.3	9.7	0.1	0.4	26.7
seeking full-time work	0.8	11.2	0.4	2.7	0.0	0.3	15.5
seeking part-time work	0.1	3.1	0.9	7.0	0.1	0.0	11.2
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.3	0.9	0.3	1.1	0.2	0.2	4.1
Others	2.7	15.9	165.4	528.3	60.1	25.7	798.1
Total females aged 15 or over	656.9	33.4	200.5	552.0	60.8	27.1	1,530.8
All persons							
In employment :	1,626.6	4.7	60.4	13.0	3.4	1.8	1,709.9
full-time	1,416.8	3.1	3.4	1.9	0.7	1.0	1,426.9
part-time :	209.8	1.5	57.0	11.2	2.8	0.7	283.0
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	208.0	1.2	57.0	11.1	2.8	0.7	280.8
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	1.7	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	2.2
Unemployed :	1.7	49.6	2.5	9.9	1.1	0.8	65.6
seeking full-time work	1.6	45.6	1.0	2.9	0.5	0.7	52.4
seeking part-time work	0.1	4.0	1.5	7.0	0.6	0.1	13.2
Marginally attached to the labour force	2.9	7.3	0.5	1.1	0.5	0.5	12.8
Others	4.4	41.9	312.9	536.3	249.6	79.8	1,224.9
Total persons aged 15 or over	1,635.5	103.4	376.3	560.4	254.6	83.0	3,013.2

Table 21 Total employment and private sector employment (ILO)

' 000

	Quarterly National Household Survey													
	Sep- Nov 97	Dec- Feb 98	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98	Dec- Feb 99	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00	Jun- Aug 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01
1. Total employment (ILO)	1,472	1,483	1,495	1,560	1,545	1,555	1,591	1,669	1,647	1,651	1,671	1,738	1,710	1,710
2. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	135	134	135	136	136	137	136	142	140	134	131	131	123	122
3. Non-agricultural employment (1-2)	1,337	1,349	1,360	1,424	1,409	1,418	1,455	1,527	1,507	1,517	1,540	1,607 0	1,587	1,588
4. State-sponsored employment schemes ¹	40	40	41	41	40	41	41	40	38	39	39	38	37	36
5. Non-agricultural employment, excluding schemes (3-4)	1,297	1,309	1,319	1,383	1,369	1,377	1,414	1,487	1,469	1,478	1,501	1,569	1,550	1,552
6. Public sector employment ¹	296	301	300	304	301	306	306	309	297	304	305	304 ²	308 ²	313 ²
7. Private sector employment (5-6)	1,001	1,008	1,019	1,079	1,068	1,071	1,108	1,178	1,172	1,174	1,196	1,265	1,242	1,239

¹ Based on administrative data. Public sector employment estimate excludes Telecom Eireann from Q3/1999.² Provisional

Table 22 Annual Labour Force Survey results (ILO classification) for persons aged 15 or over in EU Member States

	Q2/1998					Q2/1999				
	Labour Force	In Employment	Unemployed	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Labour Force	In Employment	Unemployed	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate
	' 000	' 000	' 000	%	%	' 000	' 000	' 000	%	%
EU 15 (European Union)	169,752	152,494	17,258	55.6	10.2	171,687	155,498	16,188	55.9	9.4
Eurozone (EUR-11)	129,491	115,019	14,472	54.2	11.2	130,852	117,436	13,417	54.6	10.3
Austria	3,838	3,626	212	58.8	5.5	3,859	3,678	181	59.0	4.7
Belgium	4,253	3,857	397	50.9	9.3	4,365	3,987	378	51.9	8.6
Denmark	2,821	2,679	142	65.2	5.0	2,855	2,708	147	65.8	5.1
Federal Republic of Germany	39,393	35,537	3,856	57.7	9.8	39,595	36,089	3,506	57.9	8.9
Finland	2,511	2,179	332	60.3	13.2	2,642	2,333	309	63.0	11.7
France	25,569	22,469	3,099	55.5	12.1	25,882	22,755	3,127	55.8	12.1
Greece	4,445	3,967	478	51.0	10.8	4,463	3,940	523	50.7	11.7
Ireland	1,621	1,495	127	56.5	7.8	1,688	1,591	97	57.9	5.7
Italy	23,165	20,357	2,807	47.8	12.1	23,347	20,618	2,729	48.1	11.7
Luxembourg	175	171	5	51.4	2.8	180	176	4	52.4	2.4
Netherlands	7,742	7,402	340	61.7	4.4	7,890	7,605	286	62.5	3.6
Portugal	4,999	4,764	235	60.9	4.7	5,063	4,830	233	61.3	4.6
Spain	16,226	13,161	3,065	49.3	18.9	16,339	13,773	2,566	49.4	15.7
Sweden	4,333	3,946	387	60.2	8.9	4,388	4,054	334	60.9	7.6
United Kingdom	28,661	26,883	1,778	61.6	6.2	29,129	27,361	1,768	62.1	6.1

Source : Eurostat

Note: Trends in some member states may be affected by changes in methodology.

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 reference quarters for survey results are: Q1 - December to February, Q2 - March to May, Q3 - June to August and Q4 - September to November.

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 of each year 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.

Since the March-May 1998 quarter, the category "underemployed" has been 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, were revised following improvements to the activity and occupation coding procedures in the survey. This had a marginal effect on the allocation of the employment figures between sectors but did not alter the main trends at sectoral level.

Occupations

Table 3 presents occupational data. The classification system used is based on the UK Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) with some modifications to reflect the Irish labour market. This classification was also used in the 1996 Census of Population and has replaced the previous Census and Labour Force Survey occupations classification. The old and new classifications are not perfectly comparable. The 1996 Census of Population report on occupations (Census Volume 7) contains further information on comparing the classifications.

The data given in Table 3 is at a broad level, corresponding to SOC major groups. More detailed quarterly data is available on request from the CSO.

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 18 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 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 QNHS results.

Seasonal factors are most clearly visible in the results for the June-August quarter, when the number of persons in employment is at its highest. Unemployment also increases in that quarter, when more people are 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.

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

Border	Cavan Donegal Leitrim Louth Monaghan Sligo
Midland	Laoighis Longford Offaly Westmeath
West	Galway County Borough Galway County Mayo Roscommon

Eastern and Southern NUTS2 Region

Dublin	Dublin Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Fingal South Dublin
Mid-East	Kildare Meath Wicklow
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