



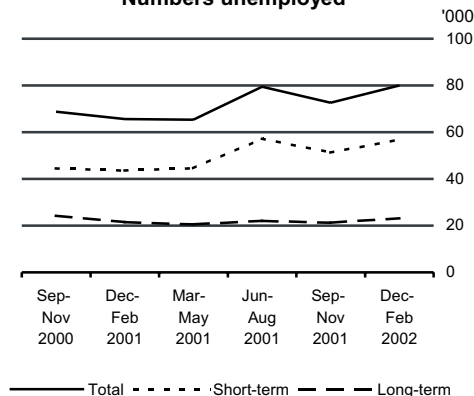
Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

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

30 May 2002

Quarterly National Household Survey First Quarter 2002

Numbers unemployed



ILO Labour Force

	In Employment	Unemployed	Labour Force
	'000		
Dec-Feb 2001	1,709.9	65.6	1,775.5
Mar-May 2001	1,716.5	65.4	1,781.9
Jun-Aug 2001	1,786.6	79.5	1,866.1
Sep-Nov 2001	1,752.9	72.6	1,825.5
Dec-Feb 2002	1,745.5	80.0	1,825.4
<i>Change in quarter</i>	-7.4	+7.4	-0.1
<i>Change in year</i>	+35.6	+14.4	+49.9

Unemployment rises to 80,000

There were 80,000 persons unemployed in the first quarter of 2002, an increase of 7,400 in the quarter and 14,400 in the year. Almost all of the annual increase was accounted for by those in short-term unemployment where the numbers increased by over 13,000. *See tables 1, 15, 16 and graph.*

In the first quarter of 2002, the unemployment rate was 4.4%. This compares with 4.0% in the fourth quarter of 2001 and 3.7% in the first quarter of 2001. The unemployment rate for males was 4.7% compared with 3.9% for females.

There were 1,745,500 persons in employment in the first quarter of 2002, representing an increase of 35,600 or 2.1% in the year. The number of females at work increased by 28,500 (4.1%) in the year compared with a rise of only 7,100 (0.7%) in the number of males at work.

Overall, the labour force increased by 49,900 in the year to reach 1,825,400. This accounted for 59.4% of all persons aged 15 or over, compared with 58.9% in the first quarter of 2001. Female participation rates increased from 47.6% to 48.7% while those for males decreased slightly from 70.6% to 70.5%.

Males account for most of the rise in unemployment

There were 50,000 males and 30,000 females unemployed in the first quarter of 2002, representing annual increases of 11,100 and 3,300 respectively. Almost all (47,700) of the unemployed males were seeking full-time work, whereas over 10,000 of the females were looking for part-time work. *See table 1.*

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The increase in male unemployment occurred mainly amongst those aged 20-44 where there was an increase of 9,700 in the year. The increase in female unemployment was also most pronounced amongst these age groups. *See table 11.*

Short-term unemployment accounted for most of the annual increase in the unemployed, bringing the numbers of short-term unemployed to 56,700. The number of persons who were long-term unemployed increased by just 1,600 in the year to 23,100. *See tables 15 and 16.*

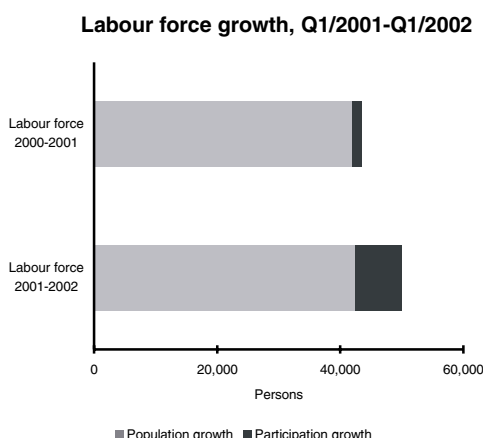
Education and health accounts for almost half the employment growth

Employment grew in the year in all sectors with the exception of other production industries, which decreased by 7,900 and agriculture, forestry and fishing which showed no change. The largest increase in employment was recorded in the education and health sector, which increased by 17,400. Almost all (+ 16,700) of this increase was accounted for by females. *See table 2.*

All occupational categories increased in the year, with the exception of craft and related (-4,900) and plant and machine operatives (-2,000). The largest increases were for professional (+9,400) and for clerical and secretarial (+9,400). *See table 3.*

The number of employees increased by 30,400 in the year to 1,433,100. This comprised an increase of 29,200 female employees and 1,100 male employees. *See table 5.*

In the year to the first quarter of 2002, the number of self-employed persons without employees grew by 7,200 while the number of self-employed persons with employees decreased by 1,200. *See table 5.*



Labour force growth

The increase of 35,600 in the numbers at work coupled with the rise of 14,400 in the numbers unemployed resulted in a labour force increase of 49,900 in the year. This comprised increases of 31,700 females and 18,200 males in the labour force. *See graph*

Demographic factors such as the increasing population of working age and its changing age structure is estimated to have added 42,500 to the labour force between the first quarters of 2001 and 2002. The balance of 7,500 was due to a further increase in labour force participation.

The labour force represented 59.4% of all persons aged 15 or over in the first quarter of 2002, compared with 58.9% in 2001, and 58.6% in 2000. There were marked differences in participation rate trends between young and old persons. In general the participation rates for those under 35, particularly males, tended to be down over the year. On the other hand, the participation rates for those aged 35 and over increased in almost all cases with female rates increasing the most. The participation rate for married females rose from 46.1% to 47.6%. *See tables 8, 13 and graph.*

The broadest survey-based labour supply indicator – S3 which includes persons outside the labour force who show some interest in obtaining work, as well as the unemployed, increased from 7.8% to 8.3% in the year. *See table 18.*

Females account for over 80% of increase in full-time employment

In the year to the first quarter of 2002, the numbers in full-time employment increased by 23,900 to 1,450,800. Over 80% of this increase (+19,400) was

accounted for by females, compared with an annual rise of only 4,500 in the number of males working full-time.

Part-time employment increased by 11,600 to 294,600. Most of this increase was also accounted for by females who account for over three-quarters of those in part-time employment.

Over 30% of females worked for less than 30 hours a week compared to 6% of males. In the year, the number of persons working 35 to 39 hours a week increased by 43,400 and the numbers working 40 hours or more decreased by 28,300. The numbers working variable hours increased by 6,300 in the year to 205,400. *See table 4.*

The average working week was 37.6 hours in the first quarter of 2002, compared with 37.8 hours in 2001 and 38.1 hours in 2000. For men the average working week was 41.8 hours and for women it was 32.4 hours. *See table 4.*

Almost a third of working mothers have children under five

In the first quarter of 2002, almost a third (111,200) of all working mothers (341,300) had children under the age of five. Of these, 19,000 were lone parents. A further 40% of all working mothers had children in the 5 to 14 year age group. *See table 21.*

There were 178,400 persons classified as lone parents in the first quarter of 2002. Of these 44.4% were in employment. Over 52% of male lone parents had a job compared to 43.2% of female lone parents. *See table 21.*

Regional Comparisons

In the year to the first quarter of 2002, employment grew by 10,900 (2.5%) in the Border, Midland and Western region and by 24,700 (1.9%) in the Eastern and Southern region. Unemployment also grew in both regions: by 4,600 in the Border, Midland and West and by 9,800 in the Eastern and Southern region. *See table 6a.*

At NUTS 3 level, annual employment grew in all regions with the exception of the Border region, where it decreased slightly. The largest annual employment increases were in the West (+9,000) and South-East (+9,100) regions. Unemployment increased in all regions, with the highest increase of 6,000 persons in the Dublin region. The unemployment rate was highest in the Border region at 6.9% and lowest in the Mid-East (3.4%) and Dublin (3.6%) regions. *See table 6b.*

Principal Economic Status

The number of persons describing their usual situation as at work increased by 33,600 in the year to 1,669,100. Females (+27,100) accounted for the bulk of the increase. The number describing themselves as unemployed increased by 17,700 to 121,100. This comprised an increase of 12,300 males and 5,400 females. *See table 19.*

There were 380,600 students in the first quarter of 2002, an increase of 4,300 in the year. Of the students, 15.5% or 58,900 had a job. This compares with 16.1% of all students one year previously. *See tables 19 and 20.*

The number of persons describing themselves as engaged on home duties fell by 9,000 to 551,400 in the year. *See table 19.*

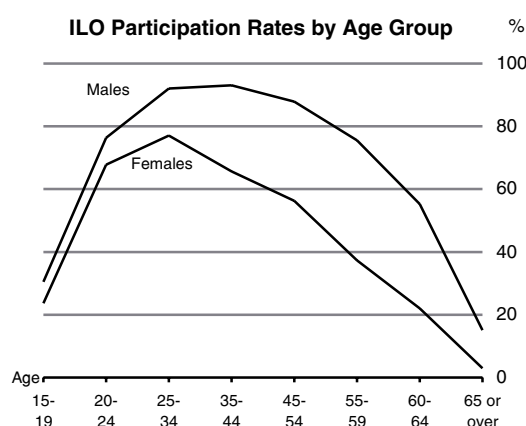


Table 1 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex and ILO economic status
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ILO economic status	Dec- Feb 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01	Mar- May 01	Jun- Aug 01	Sep- Nov 01	Dec- Feb 02
Males							
In labour force	1,029.3	1,048.8	1,046.9	1,053.7	1,094.6	1,069.1	1,065.1
In employment :	979.8	1,007.4	1,008.0	1,013.9	1,047.2	1,024.2	1,015.1
full-time	910.2	939.1	940.1	948.0	976.9	957.9	944.6
part-time :	69.7	68.3	67.9	65.9	70.4	66.3	70.5
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	67.9	67.2	66.8	64.7	69.3	65.1	69.1
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	1.8	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.4
Unemployed :	49.5	41.4	38.9	39.8	47.4	44.9	50.0
seeking full-time work	47.3	39.2	36.9	37.5	44.3	42.1	47.7
seeking part-time work	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.3	3.1	2.7	2.3
Not in labour force	425.6	428.8	435.6	432.1	399.6	433.8	445.4
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	9.6	7.8	8.7	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.7
Others	416.0	421.0	426.8	424.7	392.4	426.6	437.7
Total males aged 15 or over	1,455.0	1,477.6	1,482.4	1,485.8	1,494.2	1,502.9	1,510.5
Unemployment rate %	4.8	3.9	3.7	3.8	4.3	4.2	4.7
Participation rate %	70.7	71.0	70.6	70.9	73.3	71.1	70.5
Females							
In labour force	702.8	730.3	728.6	728.1	771.5	756.5	760.3
In employment :	670.8	702.9	701.9	702.5	739.4	728.7	730.4
full-time	467.3	491.9	486.8	484.1	518.0	507.8	506.2
part-time :	203.5	211.0	215.1	218.4	221.3	220.9	224.1
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	201.7	209.6	214.0	217.1	219.9	219.6	222.9
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2
Unemployed :	32.0	27.4	26.7	25.6	32.1	27.7	30.0
seeking full-time work	19.5	16.2	15.5	16.2	20.7	17.6	19.9
seeking part-time work	12.6	11.3	11.2	9.4	11.4	10.2	10.1
Not in labour force	800.0	795.7	802.2	803.4	768.3	798.6	800.3
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	6.2	4.4	4.1	3.4	5.1	4.4	4.5
Others	793.8	791.3	798.1	800.0	763.2	794.2	795.8
Total females aged 15 or over	1,502.8	1,526.0	1,530.8	1,531.5	1,539.8	1,555.1	1,560.6
Unemployment rate %	4.6	3.8	3.7	3.5	4.2	3.7	3.9
Participation rate %	46.8	47.9	47.6	47.5	50.1	48.6	48.7
All persons							
In labour force	1,732.1	1,779.1	1,775.5	1,781.9	1,866.1	1,825.5	1,825.4
In employment :	1,650.6	1,710.3	1,709.9	1,716.5	1,786.6	1,752.9	1,745.5
full-time	1,377.5	1,431.0	1,426.9	1,432.2	1,494.9	1,465.7	1,450.8
part-time :	273.1	279.3	283.0	284.3	291.7	287.2	294.6
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	269.5	276.8	280.8	281.9	289.2	284.7	292.1
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	3.6	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6
Unemployed :	81.5	68.8	65.6	65.4	79.5	72.6	80.0
seeking full-time work	66.8	55.3	52.4	53.7	65.0	59.7	67.5
seeking part-time work	14.8	13.5	13.2	11.7	14.5	12.9	12.4
Not in labour force	1,225.7	1,224.5	1,237.7	1,235.5	1,168.0	1,232.5	1,245.6
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	15.8	12.2	12.8	10.8	12.3	11.6	12.2
Others	1,209.9	1,212.3	1,224.9	1,224.7	1,155.6	1,220.8	1,233.4
Total persons aged 15 or over	2,957.8	3,003.6	3,013.2	3,017.3	3,034.0	3,058.0	3,071.1
Unemployment rate %	4.7	3.9	3.7	3.7	4.3	4.0	4.4
Participation rate %	58.6	59.2	58.9	59.1	61.5	59.7	59.4

* See Background Notes

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

¹ 000

Economic sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Dec- Feb 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01	Mar- May 01	Jun- Aug 01	Sep- Nov 01	Dec- Feb 02
Males							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	118.8	109.4	108.1	107.2	114.1	112.4	109.4
C-E Other production industries	213.2	220.4	220.8	222.3	229.4	220.7	216.9
F Construction	151.9	169.8	171.1	172.0	177.3	175.5	174.1
G Wholesale and retail trade	124.8	127.3	128.2	130.7	130.8	127.0	127.4
H Hotels and restaurants	43.5	44.9	43.4	43.1	46.1	43.7	45.5
I Transport, storage and communication	75.7	78.0	79.6	80.9	83.1	81.9	80.3
J-K Financial and other business services	104.1	105.8	109.7	110.5	114.9	113.0	111.6
L Public administration and defence	45.9	45.8	45.1	45.4	46.5	44.2	43.7
M-N Education and health	58.7	63.5	61.4	59.7	60.4	62.2	62.2
O Other services	43.1	42.5	40.4	42.1	44.7	43.6	43.9
Total males	979.8	1,007.4	1,008.0	1,013.9	1,047.2	1,024.2	1,015.1
Females							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	15.0	13.3	13.5	12.9	13.3	12.0	12.3
C-E Other production industries	100.3	100.6	97.5	94.8	101.3	97.3	93.6
F Construction	7.8	8.3	8.8	8.2	9.1	9.3	9.1
G Wholesale and retail trade	108.6	115.3	118.3	117.1	122.6	118.6	121.7
H Hotels and restaurants	61.9	65.1	63.2	61.6	70.2	65.5	63.2
I Transport, storage and communication	25.5	27.2	27.6	29.5	29.5	29.0	28.6
J-K Financial and other business services	102.7	110.5	108.4	107.8	115.8	115.2	114.8
L Public administration and defence	30.9	32.7	33.3	35.0	37.6	37.2	38.3
M-N Education and health	168.0	178.2	181.1	185.6	187.7	193.4	197.8
O Other services	50.2	51.5	50.2	50.1	52.2	51.2	51.0
Total females	670.8	702.9	701.9	702.5	739.4	728.7	730.4
All persons							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	133.8	122.7	121.7	120.1	127.3	124.4	121.7
C-E Other production industries	313.5	321.0	318.3	317.1	330.8	318.0	310.4
F Construction	159.7	178.1	179.9	180.2	186.4	184.8	183.2
G Wholesale and retail trade	233.5	242.6	246.5	247.8	253.4	245.6	249.1
H Hotels and restaurants	105.4	110.0	106.6	104.8	116.3	109.1	108.7
I Transport, storage and communication	101.2	105.2	107.2	110.4	112.6	110.9	108.9
J-K Financial and other business services	206.8	216.3	218.1	218.3	230.7	228.2	226.4
L Public administration and defence	76.8	78.5	78.4	80.4	84.2	81.4	82.0
M-N Education and health	226.7	241.8	242.6	245.2	248.1	255.7	260.0
O Other services	93.2	94.1	90.7	92.3	96.9	94.9	94.9
Total persons	1,650.6	1,710.3	1,709.9	1,716.5	1,786.6	1,752.9	1,745.5

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

1 000

Broad Occupational Group	Dec- Feb 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01	Mar- May 01	Jun- Aug 01	Sep- Nov 01	Dec- Feb 02
Males							
1. Managers and administrators	222.0	217.2	218.8	219.0	222.9	225.6	225.0
2. Professional	87.8	94.0	94.5	95.8	97.0	95.5	95.7
3. Associate professional and technical	60.6	64.2	66.6	66.5	68.9	67.5	65.9
4. Clerical and secretarial	51.1	50.4	50.1	51.6	54.2	50.3	50.1
5. Craft and related	211.8	219.1	218.2	219.1	223.4	221.2	216.0
6. Personal and protective service	68.8	68.4	66.9	67.8	70.3	69.3	71.2
7. Sales	53.5	55.0	55.6	55.3	57.3	55.7	54.9
8. Plant and machine operatives	128.4	140.6	143.4	146.6	150.8	147.3	145.2
9. Other	95.8	98.5	93.8	92.2	102.4	91.8	91.0
Total males	979.8	1,007.4	1,008.0	1,013.9	1,047.2	1,024.2	1,015.1
Females							
1. Managers and administrators	77.5	83.4	84.8	87.1	89.6	87.3	86.3
2. Professional	75.4	78.3	77.6	77.0	77.6	82.9	85.7
3. Associate professional and technical	74.7	80.5	79.6	81.2	86.5	88.3	87.4
4. Clerical and secretarial	152.5	160.5	159.5	161.2	169.1	167.4	169.0
5. Craft and related	15.8	16.3	15.2	14.4	14.7	12.9	12.4
6. Personal and protective service	92.6	96.9	97.9	96.4	103.0	99.7	98.0
7. Sales	79.6	84.2	87.3	86.5	93.0	87.2	90.9
8. Plant and machine operatives	48.0	48.9	47.1	45.5	49.2	47.4	43.3
9. Other	54.6	53.9	52.9	53.3	56.8	55.7	57.3
Total females	670.8	702.9	701.9	702.5	739.4	728.7	730.4
All persons							
1. Managers and administrators	299.5	300.6	303.6	306.1	312.4	312.9	311.3
2. Professional	163.2	172.2	172.1	172.8	174.5	178.3	181.5
3. Associate professional and technical	135.3	144.7	146.2	147.7	155.4	155.8	153.2
4. Clerical and secretarial	203.6	210.9	209.7	212.7	223.3	217.7	219.1
5. Craft and related	227.5	235.4	233.3	233.5	238.1	234.1	228.4
6. Personal and protective service	161.4	165.3	164.8	164.3	173.3	169.0	169.3
7. Sales	133.1	139.3	142.9	141.8	150.3	142.9	145.8
8. Plant and machine operatives	176.4	189.6	190.5	192.1	200.0	194.7	188.5
9. Other	150.4	152.4	146.7	145.5	159.2	147.6	148.3
Total persons	1,650.6	1,710.3	1,709.9	1,716.5	1,786.6	1,752.9	1,745.5

Table 4 Persons in employment (ILO) classified by sex and usual hours of work

¹ 000

Usual hours per week	Dec- Feb 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01	Mar- May 01	Jun- Aug 01	Sep- Nov 01	Dec- Feb 02
Males							
1-9 hours	8.2	6.8	7.8	7.9	3.6	6.7	7.5
10-19	18.4	18.3	19.6	18.1	14.4	16.3	19.1
20-29	36.1	37.4	35.5	34.4	37.9	35.6	35.1
30-34	17.0	15.7	16.1	16.5	19.2	17.5	19.2
35-39	278.6	307.8	311.6	318.5	331.5	330.7	333.1
40-44	243.4	248.6	249.2	246.8	255.2	245.6	235.1
45 & over	216.2	210.4	208.5	210.3	214.7	207.0	203.4
Variable hours¹	161.8	162.3	159.7	161.6	170.8	164.8	162.6
Total males	979.8	1,007.4	1,008.0	1,013.9	1,047.2	1,024.2	1,015.1
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>42.1</i>	<i>42.0</i>	<i>41.8</i>	<i>42.0</i>	<i>42.2</i>	<i>42.0</i>	<i>41.8</i>
Females							
1-9 hours	19.2	17.7	18.3	17.8	13.5	18.9	20.5
10-19	63.2	66.1	67.3	67.5	61.8	67.6	70.3
20-29	120.1	128.1	131.6	132.9	139.0	135.6	134.6
30-34	31.9	32.9	34.2	35.8	39.7	38.4	38.5
35-39	241.1	261.9	259.7	261.0	281.8	279.7	281.5
40-44	110.2	117.5	113.4	110.3	118.6	112.6	108.7
45 & over	41.7	38.6	38.0	36.3	37.1	34.0	33.5
Variable hours¹	43.4	40.2	39.4	40.9	47.9	42.0	42.7
Total females	670.8	702.9	701.9	702.5	739.4	728.7	730.4
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>32.7</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>32.6</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>33.0</i>	<i>32.6</i>	<i>32.4</i>
All persons							
1-9 hours	27.4	24.6	26.1	25.7	17.1	25.6	28.1
10-19	81.6	84.4	86.9	85.6	76.2	83.9	89.3
20-29	156.2	165.5	167.1	167.2	177.0	171.2	169.6
30-34	48.9	48.6	50.3	52.3	58.9	55.9	57.7
35-39	519.7	569.7	571.3	579.5	613.2	610.4	614.7
40-44	353.6	366.1	362.6	357.0	373.8	358.1	343.8
45 & over	257.9	249.0	246.5	246.6	251.8	241.0	237.0
Variable hours¹	205.2	202.5	199.1	202.5	218.7	206.8	205.4
Total persons	1,650.6	1,710.3	1,709.9	1,716.5	1,786.6	1,752.9	1,745.5
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>37.8</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>38.2</i>	<i>37.8</i>	<i>37.6</i>

¹ Includes 'not stated'

Table 5 Persons in employment classified by employment status

'000

Employment Status	Dec-Feb 00	Sep-Nov 00	Dec-Feb 01	Mar-May 01	Jun-Aug 01	Sep-Nov 01	Dec-Feb 02
Males							
Self employed (with paid employees)	78.4	82.4	81.9	82.4	81.2	81.2	81.9
Self employed (with no paid employees)	167.7	161.0	161.1	163.6	165.9	167.5	166.3
Employee	725.9	755.9	757.4	760.1	789.9	767.0	758.5
Assisting relative	7.9	8.1	7.6	7.9	10.1	8.5	8.3
Total males	979.8	1,007.4	1,008.0	1,013.9	1,047.2	1,024.2	1,015.1
Females							
Self employed (with paid employees)	18.6	18.7	18.5	18.7	18.7	17.3	17.2
Self employed (with no paid employees)	29.9	27.8	27.0	27.2	27.3	28.0	29.0
Employee	610.0	645.5	645.3	646.3	683.6	674.6	674.5
Assisting relative	12.3	10.9	11.1	10.3	9.8	8.8	9.6
Total females	670.8	702.9	701.9	702.5	739.4	728.7	730.4
All persons							
Self employed (with paid employees)	96.9	101.1	100.4	101.1	99.9	98.6	99.2
Self employed (with no paid employees)	197.6	188.8	188.1	190.8	193.2	195.5	195.3
Employee	1,335.9	1,401.4	1,402.7	1,406.4	1,473.5	1,441.5	1,433.1
Assisting relative	20.2	19.0	18.6	18.2	19.9	17.3	17.9
Total persons	1,650.6	1,710.3	1,709.9	1,716.5	1,786.6	1,752.9	1,745.5

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
	'000	'000	'000	%	%
Border, Midland and Western					
Dec-Feb 2000	404.0	26.2	430.2	6.1	55.6
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
Mar-May 2001	425.0	20.3	445.3	4.5	56.2
Jun-Aug 2001	447.7	25.4	473.1	5.4	59.0
Sep-Nov 2001	436.2	24.4	460.6	5.3	57.1
Dec-Feb 2002	435.0	25.8	460.8	5.6	56.9
Eastern and Southern					
Dec-Feb 2000	1,246.6	55.4	1,301.9	4.3	59.6
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
Mar-May 2001	1,291.4	45.1	1,336.6	3.4	60.1
Jun-Aug 2001	1,338.9	54.1	1,393.0	3.9	62.4
Sep-Nov 2001	1,316.7	48.2	1,364.9	3.5	60.6
Dec-Feb 2002	1,310.5	54.2	1,364.7	4.0	60.4
State					
Dec-Feb 2000	1,650.6	81.5	1,732.1	4.7	58.6
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
Mar-May 2001	1,716.5	65.4	1,781.9	3.7	59.1
Jun-Aug 2001	1,786.6	79.5	1,866.1	4.3	61.5
Sep-Nov 2001	1,752.9	72.6	1,825.5	4.0	59.7
Dec-Feb 2002	1,745.5	80.0	1,825.4	4.4	59.4

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 2000	158.6	12.5	171.1	7.3	53.5
	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
	Mar-May 2001	169.7	9.9	179.6	5.5	55.5
	Jun-Aug 2001	172.4	12.5	184.9	6.8	56.9
	Sep-Nov 2001	169.2	11.6	180.7	6.4	55.6
	Dec-Feb 2002	166.8	12.4	179.2	6.9	55.0
Midlands	Dec-Feb 2000	82.9	5.8	88.7	6.6	55.1
	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
	Mar-May 2001	86.3	3.4	89.6	3.8	54.8
	Jun-Aug 2001	91.4	4.1	95.6	4.3	58.1
	Sep-Nov 2001	87.5	3.9	91.4	4.3	55.7
	Dec-Feb 2002	88.9	3.8	92.7	4.1	56.1
West	Dec-Feb 2000	162.6	7.9	170.4	4.6	58.3
	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
	Mar-May 2001	169.1	7.0	176.1	4.0	57.6
	Jun-Aug 2001	183.8	8.8	192.6	4.5	61.7
	Sep-Nov 2001	179.6	8.9	188.5	4.7	59.3
	Dec-Feb 2002	179.4	9.5	188.9	5.0	59.2
Dublin	Dec-Feb 2000	528.1	21.6	549.7	3.9	62.4
	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
	Mar-May 2001	547.9	16.5	564.4	2.9	63.1
	Jun-Aug 2001	558.5	19.2	577.7	3.3	64.6
	Sep-Nov 2001	555.3	17.8	573.1	3.1	63.4
	Dec-Feb 2002	552.7	20.5	573.3	3.6	63.0
Mid-East	Dec-Feb 2000	176.3	7.4	183.6	4.0	62.3
	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
	Mar-May 2001	187.4	5.5	192.9	2.9	63.0
	Jun-Aug 2001	195.5	7.2	202.7	3.5	65.3
	Sep-Nov 2001	191.1	6.4	197.5	3.2	63.3
	Dec-Feb 2002	189.9	6.7	196.6	3.4	62.8
Mid-West	Dec-Feb 2000	143.8	6.4	150.2	4.3	58.4
	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
	Mar-May 2001	143.5	5.3	148.7	3.5	56.7
	Jun-Aug 2001	151.7	7.3	159.0	4.6	60.5
	Sep-Nov 2001	148.3	6.7	155.0	4.3	58.3
	Dec-Feb 2002	148.3	6.8	155.1	4.4	58.2
South-East	Dec-Feb 2000	165.6	10.2	175.9	5.8	56.0
	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
	Mar-May 2001	171.3	8.5	179.8	4.7	56.5
	Jun-Aug 2001	181.6	9.5	191.1	5.0	59.6
	Sep-Nov 2001	177.9	7.3	185.2	3.9	57.4
	Dec-Feb 2002	177.7	8.8	186.5	4.7	57.5
South-West	Dec-Feb 2000	232.8	9.8	242.6	4.0	55.3
	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
	Mar-May 2001	241.3	9.4	250.8	3.8	56.7
	Jun-Aug 2001	251.7	10.9	262.6	4.1	59.2
	Sep-Nov 2001	244.2	10.0	254.2	4.0	56.9
	Dec-Feb 2002	241.9	11.4	253.2	4.5	56.7
State	Dec-Feb 2000	1,650.6	81.5	1,732.1	4.7	58.6
	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
	Mar-May 2001	1,716.5	65.4	1,781.9	3.7	59.1
	Jun-Aug 2001	1,786.6	79.5	1,866.1	4.3	61.5
	Sep-Nov 2001	1,752.9	72.6	1,825.5	4.0	59.7
	Dec-Feb 2002	1,745.5	80.0	1,825.4	4.4	59.4

¹ See Background Notes

Table 7 Labour force participation rates (ILO) classified by sex, age group and marital status, December-February 2002

and marital status, December-February 2002									%
Marital Status	Age group								
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	Total
Males									
Single	30.6	76.5	90.8	85.8	73.9	60.7	45.1	21.5	66.9
Married	*	62.7	94.8	95.8	91.3	79.0	58.6	15.4	76.7
Separated or divorced	*	*	87.1	86.5	76.1	65.0	43.4	12.1	69.1
Widowed	*	*	90.5	83.7	78.9	63.5	48.5	6.5	24.0
Total males	30.5	76.4	92.0	93.1	87.9	75.5	55.3	15.1	70.5
Females									
Single	23.8	68.5	85.5	80.5	68.4	48.4	36.7	3.3	58.8
Married	*	49.6	66.1	62.2	53.9	34.8	19.8	3.6	47.6
Separated or divorced	*	*	62.5	69.9	65.0	48.5	26.4	6.1	59.2
Widowed	*	*	74.6	51.2	54.8	39.5	22.7	2.0	10.1
Total females	23.7	67.8	77.1	65.6	56.3	37.3	22.0	2.8	48.7
All persons									
Single	27.3	72.5	88.4	83.5	71.6	56.1	42.1	13.1	63.1
Married	*	53.3	78.6	78.6	72.8	57.6	39.8	10.3	62.2
Separated or divorced	*	*	68.9	75.7	69.3	55.2	35.0	9.4	63.0
Widowed	*	*	79.2	62.1	61.2	46.2	28.4	2.8	13.0
Total persons	27.2	72.1	84.6	79.2	72.1	56.6	38.7	8.1	59.4

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 8 Labour force participation 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 2000	32.8	78.9	94.0	93.3	88.0	74.8	53.5	15.0	70.7
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
Mar-May 2001	32.5	77.5	93.3	93.9	87.5	75.8	54.6	14.2	70.9
Jun-Aug 2001	44.0	84.3	93.6	93.8	88.2	75.4	55.2	14.4	73.3
Sep-Nov 2001	32.1	77.5	93.3	93.4	88.1	75.8	55.6	15.1	71.1
Dec-Feb 2002	30.5	76.4	92.0	93.1	87.9	75.5	55.3	15.1	70.5
Females									
Dec-Feb 2000	25.0	70.6	76.3	62.3	51.4	34.6	19.1	2.4	46.8
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
Mar-May 2001	23.1	65.6	76.0	65.0	54.7	36.2	20.7	2.9	47.5
Jun-Aug 2001	34.7	76.0	76.8	64.4	55.4	36.6	21.1	2.6	50.1
Sep-Nov 2001	24.4	69.5	77.3	64.7	55.7	37.1	20.6	2.7	48.6
Dec-Feb 2002	23.7	67.8	77.1	65.6	56.3	37.3	22.0	2.8	48.7
All persons									
Dec-Feb 2000	29.0	74.8	85.2	77.6	69.8	55.0	36.2	7.8	58.6
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
Mar-May 2001	27.9	71.6	84.7	79.3	71.2	56.2	37.6	7.8	59.1
Jun-Aug 2001	39.5	80.2	85.3	78.9	71.9	56.2	38.1	7.7	61.5
Sep-Nov 2001	28.4	73.5	85.3	78.9	71.9	56.7	38.1	8.1	59.7
Dec-Feb 2002	27.2	72.1	84.6	79.2	72.1	56.6	38.7	8.1	59.4

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

' 000

	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	Age group 45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	Total
Males									
Dec-Feb 2000	56.9	128.8	267.0	241.3	203.3	65.3	39.2	27.5	1,029.3
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
Mar-May 2001	54.4	130.5	278.2	246.8	206.1	70.6	40.7	26.5	1,053.7
Jun-Aug 2001	73.1	143.1	283.0	247.2	208.7	71.3	41.4	26.9	1,094.6
Sep-Nov 2001	53.3	133.9	283.9	246.4	208.6	72.8	41.9	28.4	1,069.1
Dec-Feb 2002	50.5	132.6	282.7	246.7	208.8	73.5	41.8	28.6	1,065.1
Females									
Dec-Feb 2000	41.0	113.6	216.2	165.0	117.4	29.5	14.2	5.8	702.8
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
Mar-May 2001	36.7	109.2	223.5	175.3	127.8	33.1	15.5	7.1	728.1
Jun-Aug 2001	54.7	128.0	228.3	173.9	130.3	34.0	15.8	6.4	771.5
Sep-Nov 2001	38.5	119.9	233.5	175.8	131.7	34.9	15.5	6.5	756.5
Dec-Feb 2002	37.1	118.1	233.9	178.3	133.7	35.7	16.7	6.9	760.3
All persons									
Dec-Feb 2000	98.0	242.5	483.2	406.4	320.6	94.7	53.4	33.3	1,732.1
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
Mar-May 2001	91.0	239.7	501.7	422.1	333.9	103.6	56.3	33.6	1,781.9
Jun-Aug 2001	127.8	271.1	511.3	421.1	339.0	105.2	57.3	33.3	1,866.1
Sep-Nov 2001	91.8	253.8	517.4	422.3	340.3	107.7	57.4	34.9	1,825.5
Dec-Feb 2002	87.6	250.7	516.6	425.0	342.5	109.2	58.4	35.4	1,825.4

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

' 000

	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	Age group 45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	Total
Males									
Dec-Feb 2000	51.5	121.6	254.1	230.5	193.5	63.0	38.3	27.1	979.8
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
Mar-May 2001	49.4	123.6	267.3	239.7	199.2	68.4	40.0	26.4	1,013.9
Jun-Aug 2001	64.9	132.9	271.6	240.6	200.9	69.1	40.6	26.7	1,047.2
Sep-Nov 2001	48.0	124.0	271.7	239.3	201.1	70.9	41.0	28.2	1,024.2
Dec-Feb 2002	45.1	122.4	268.4	237.8	201.0	71.2	40.7	28.4	1,015.1
Females									
Dec-Feb 2000	37.0	106.9	207.9	157.8	112.9	28.6	13.9	5.7	670.8
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
Mar-May 2001	33.6	103.7	216.2	170.2	124.4	31.9	15.4	7.1	702.5
Jun-Aug 2001	48.6	118.9	221.1	168.9	126.7	33.3	15.6	6.4	739.4
Sep-Nov 2001	34.7	112.6	226.3	170.9	128.3	34.2	15.3	6.5	728.7
Dec-Feb 2002	33.5	110.8	225.4	172.8	130.0	34.7	16.4	6.8	730.4
All persons									
Dec-Feb 2000	88.5	228.5	462.1	388.3	306.5	91.6	52.2	32.8	1,650.6
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
Mar-May 2001	83.1	227.3	483.5	409.9	323.5	100.3	55.4	33.5	1,716.5
Jun-Aug 2001	113.5	251.7	492.7	409.4	327.5	102.4	56.1	33.1	1,786.6
Sep-Nov 2001	82.8	236.6	498.0	410.2	329.3	105.1	56.3	34.6	1,752.9
Dec-Feb 2002	78.5	233.3	493.8	410.6	330.9	106.0	57.1	35.3	1,745.5

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

' 000

	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	Age group 45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	Total
Males									
Dec-Feb 2000	5.4	7.2	12.9	10.8	9.7	2.2	0.9	0.3	49.5
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
Mar-May 2001	4.9	6.9	10.9	7.2	7.0	2.1	0.8	0.0	39.8
Jun-Aug 2001	8.2	10.3	11.4	6.6	7.8	2.2	0.9	0.1	47.4
Sep-Nov 2001	5.2	9.8	12.2	7.1	7.5	1.9	0.9	0.2	44.9
Dec-Feb 2002	5.4	10.2	14.2	8.9	7.8	2.3	1.1	0.1	50.0
Females									
Dec-Feb 2000	4.0	6.7	8.3	7.2	4.5	0.9	0.2	0.1	32.0
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
Mar-May 2001	3.0	5.5	7.3	5.0	3.4	1.2	0.1	0.1	25.6
Jun-Aug 2001	6.1	9.1	7.2	5.1	3.6	0.7	0.2	0.1	32.1
Sep-Nov 2001	3.8	7.3	7.2	5.0	3.4	0.7	0.2	0.1	27.7
Dec-Feb 2002	3.7	7.2	8.5	5.5	3.8	1.0	0.3	0.0	30.0
All persons									
Dec-Feb 2000	9.4	14.0	21.2	18.0	14.2	3.1	1.1	0.5	81.5
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
Mar-May 2001	8.0	12.4	18.2	12.2	10.4	3.3	0.9	0.1	65.4
Jun-Aug 2001	14.2	19.4	18.6	11.7	11.4	2.8	1.1	0.2	79.5
Sep-Nov 2001	9.0	17.2	19.4	12.1	11.0	2.6	1.1	0.3	72.6
Dec-Feb 2002	9.1	17.5	22.7	14.4	11.6	3.2	1.4	0.2	80.0

Table 12 Unemployment rates (ILO) classified by sex and age group

%

	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	Age group 45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	Total
Males									
Dec-Feb 2000	9.5	5.6	4.8	4.5	4.8	3.4	2.3	1.2	4.8
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
Mar-May 2001	9.1	5.3	3.9	2.9	3.4	3.0	1.9	0.1	3.8
Jun-Aug 2001	11.2	7.2	4.0	2.7	3.7	3.1	2.1	0.5	4.3
Sep-Nov 2001	9.8	7.4	4.3	2.9	3.6	2.6	2.1	0.7	4.2
Dec-Feb 2002	10.7	7.7	5.0	3.6	3.7	3.1	2.5	0.5	4.7
Females									
Dec-Feb 2000	9.8	5.9	3.8	4.4	3.8	3.0	1.7	2.3	4.6
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
Mar-May 2001	8.3	5.0	3.3	2.9	2.7	3.5	0.9	1.0	3.5
Jun-Aug 2001	11.1	7.1	3.1	2.9	2.8	1.9	1.6	1.1	4.2
Sep-Nov 2001	9.8	6.1	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.0	1.3	1.0	3.7
Dec-Feb 2002	9.9	6.1	3.6	3.1	2.8	2.7	1.8	0.5	3.9
All persons									
Dec-Feb 2000	9.6	5.8	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.3	2.1	1.4	4.7
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
Mar-May 2001	8.8	5.2	3.6	2.9	3.1	3.2	1.6	0.3	3.7
Jun-Aug 2001	11.2	7.2	3.6	2.8	3.4	2.7	1.9	0.6	4.3
Sep-Nov 2001	9.8	6.8	3.7	2.9	3.2	2.4	1.9	0.8	4.0
Dec-Feb 2002	10.4	7.0	4.4	3.4	3.4	2.9	2.3	0.5	4.4

Table 13 Labour force situation of married females

	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	Age group 45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	Total
Total Married Women ('000)									
Dec-Feb 2000	0.5	5.9	130.2	203.4	182.9	65.6	49.7	84.8	723.0
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
Mar-May 2001	0.5	5.6	121.6	201.9	184.2	69.8	54.3	89.3	727.2
Jun-Aug 2001	0.4	5.8	122.5	201.8	183.2	71.2	53.6	89.4	727.9
Sep-Nov 2001	0.5	6.0	122.5	203.8	183.8	72.2	53.0	89.8	731.5
Dec-Feb 2002	0.6	5.5	122.8	203.6	183.7	72.5	53.2	89.7	731.6
of which In Labour Force ('000)									
Dec-Feb 2000	*	3.4	87.1	119.1	89.2	21.0	8.5	2.3	330.6
Sep-Nov 2000	*	3.8	82.9	122.0	93.3	22.7	9.7	2.6	337.2
Dec-Feb 2001	*	3.8	81.9	121.4	93.2	22.8	10.6	2.8	336.7
Mar-May 2001	*	3.2	78.7	123.3	94.8	23.8	10.2	3.2	337.3
Jun-Aug 2001	*	2.7	80.0	122.0	95.8	24.6	10.1	2.7	337.9
Sep-Nov 2001	*	2.9	81.1	124.2	97.3	25.3	9.7	3.0	343.4
Dec-Feb 2002	*	2.7	81.1	126.6	98.9	25.2	10.5	3.2	348.5
of which In Employment ('000)									
Dec-Feb 2000	*	3.1	84.1	114.4	85.9	20.4	8.3	2.3	318.6
Sep-Nov 2000	*	3.4	80.7	119.0	91.0	22.2	9.6	2.6	328.8
Dec-Feb 2001	*	3.5	79.1	118.4	90.6	22.4	10.3	2.8	327.2
Mar-May 2001	*	3.1	76.2	120.6	92.5	23.2	10.2	3.2	329.1
Jun-Aug 2001	*	2.5	77.5	119.3	93.2	24.3	10.0	2.7	329.4
Sep-Nov 2001	*	2.7	78.9	121.0	94.8	24.9	9.6	3.0	334.8
Dec-Feb 2002	*	2.6	78.8	123.2	96.4	24.8	10.5	3.2	339.4
Participation rates (%)									
Dec-Feb 2000	*	57.1	66.9	58.6	48.8	32.1	17.1	2.7	45.7
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
Mar-May 2001	*	56.8	64.7	61.1	51.5	34.1	18.9	3.5	46.4
Jun-Aug 2001	*	46.8	65.3	60.4	52.3	34.6	18.8	3.1	46.4
Sep-Nov 2001	*	47.2	66.2	60.9	52.9	35.1	18.2	3.4	46.9
Dec-Feb 2002	*	49.6	66.1	62.2	53.9	34.8	19.8	3.6	47.6

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation

Table 14 Labour force, employment, unemployed and long-term unemployed (ILO)

Period	Labour force	In employment	Unemployed	<i>of which</i> Long term unemployed	Unemployment rate	Long-term unemployment rate
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
April 1988	1,327.7	1,110.7	217.0	137.8	16.3	10.4
April 1989	1,307.8	1,111.0	196.8	128.0	15.0	9.8
April 1990	1,332.1	1,159.7	172.4	110.2	12.9	8.3
April 1991	1,354.4	1,155.9	198.5	119.7	14.7	8.8
April 1992	1,371.8	1,165.2	206.6	116.5	15.1	8.5
April 1993	1,403.2	1,183.1	220.1	125.4	15.7	8.9
April 1994	1,431.6	1,220.6	211.0	128.2	14.7	9.0
April 1995	1,459.2	1,281.7	177.4	103.3	12.2	7.1
April 1996	1,507.5	1,328.5	179.0	103.3	11.9	6.9
April 1997	1,539.0	1,379.9	159.0	86.3	10.3	5.6
Sep-Nov 1997	1,643.9	1,472.3	171.6	90.2	10.4	5.5
Dec-Feb 1998	1,621.6	1,483.1	138.6	72.6	8.5	4.5
Mar-May 1998	1,621.1	1,494.5	126.6	63.5	7.8	3.9
Jun-Aug 1998	1,688.6	1,559.7	128.9	61.7	7.6	3.7
Sep-Nov 1998	1,650.7	1,544.7	106.0	51.7	6.4	3.1
Dec-Feb 1999	1,650.1	1,555.0	95.1	43.6	5.8	2.6
Mar-May 1999	1,688.1	1,591.1	96.9	41.6	5.7	2.5
Jun-Aug 1999	1,770.3	1,669.2	101.1	37.9	5.7	2.1
Sep-Nov 1999	1,736.1	1,647.4	88.7	36.0	5.1	2.1
Dec-Feb 2000	1,732.1	1,650.6	81.5	29.7	4.7	1.7
Mar-May 2000	1,745.6	1,670.7	74.9	27.4	4.3	1.6
Jun-Aug 2000	1,815.6	1,737.9	77.7	25.7	4.3	1.4
Sep-Nov 2000	1,779.1	1,710.3	68.8	24.2	3.9	1.4
Dec-Feb 2001	1,775.5	1,709.9	65.6	21.5	3.7	1.2
Mar-May 2001	1,781.9	1,716.5	65.4	20.5	3.7	1.2
Jun-Aug 2001	1,866.1	1,786.6	79.5	22.1	4.3	1.2
Sep-Nov 2001	1,825.5	1,752.9	72.6	21.3	4.0	1.2
Dec-Feb 2002	1,825.4	1,745.5	80.0	23.1	4.4	1.3

Table 15 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex and duration of unemployment (ILO)¹ 000

Duration	Quarterly National Household Survey						
	Dec- Feb 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01	Mar- May 01	Jun- Aug 01	Sep- Nov 01	Dec- Feb 02
Males							
Less than 1 year	27.2	22.6	22.6	23.8	30.5	27.7	32.0
1 year and over	22.2	18.6	15.9	15.6	16.6	17.1	17.9
Not stated	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Total males	49.5	41.4	38.9	39.8	47.4	44.9	50.0
Females							
Less than 1 year	24.5	21.9	20.9	20.7	26.6	23.5	24.8
1 year and over	7.5	5.5	5.6	4.9	5.5	4.3	5.2
Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total females	32.0	27.4	26.7	25.6	32.1	27.7	30.0
All persons							
Less than 1 year	51.7	44.5	43.5	44.5	57.2	51.2	56.7
1 year and over	29.7	24.2	21.5	20.5	22.1	21.3	23.1
Not stated	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Total persons	81.5	68.8	65.6	65.4	79.5	72.6	80.0

Table 16 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex, age group and duration of unemployment (ILO)¹ 000

Duration	QNHS Dec-Feb 2001				QNHS Dec-Feb 2002			
	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	8.5	9.3	4.7	22.6	11.8	14.9	5.3	32.0
1 year and over	2.7	7.5	5.7	15.9	3.7	8.2	6.0	17.9
Not stated	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total males	11.3	17.1	10.5	38.9	15.6	23.1	11.3	50.0
Females								
Less than 1 year	7.2	9.9	3.8	20.9	9.3	11.5	4.0	24.8
1 year and over	1.4	2.8	1.4	5.6	1.6	2.5	1.1	5.2
Not stated	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total females	8.7	12.8	5.2	26.7	10.9	14.0	5.1	30.0
All persons								
Less than 1 year	15.7	19.2	8.5	43.5	21.2	26.3	9.2	56.7
1 year and over	4.2	10.3	7.1	21.5	5.3	10.7	7.1	23.1
Not stated	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total persons	20.0	29.9	15.7	65.6	26.5	37.1	16.3	80.0

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

¹ 000

ILO economic status	Quarterly National Household Survey								
	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00	Jun- Aug 00	Sep- Nov 00	Dec- Feb 01	Mar- May 01	Jun- Aug 01	Sep- Nov 01	Dec- Feb 02
In labour force	1,732.1	1,745.6	1,815.6	1,779.1	1,775.5	1,781.9	1,866.1	1,825.5	1,825.4
In employment :	1,650.6	1,670.7	1,737.9	1,710.3	1,709.9	1,716.5	1,786.6	1,752.9	1,745.5
full-time	1,377.5	1,390.1	1,460.0	1,431.0	1,426.9	1,432.2	1,494.9	1,465.7	1,450.8
part-time :	273.1	280.6	277.9	279.3	283.0	284.3	291.7	287.2	294.6
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	269.5	277.0	274.6	276.8	280.8	281.9	289.2	284.7	292.1
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	3.6	3.6	3.3	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6
Unemployed :	81.5	74.9	77.7	68.8	65.6	65.4	79.5	72.6	80.0
seeking full-time work	66.8	61.3	63.3	55.3	52.4	53.7	65.0	59.7	67.5
seeking part-time work	14.8	13.6	14.4	13.5	13.2	11.7	14.5	12.9	12.4
Not in labour force	1,225.7	1,217.0	1,159.3	1,224.5	1,237.7	1,235.5	1,168.0	1,232.5	1,245.6
Marginally attached to the labour force :	15.8	12.2	14.5	12.2	12.8	10.8	12.3	11.6	12.2
Discouraged workers	12.8	9.6	11.5	9.5	10.1	8.5	9.5	9.2	9.3
Passive jobseekers	3.0	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.3	2.9	2.5	2.9
Others :	1,209.9	1,204.7	1,144.8	1,212.3	1,224.9	1,224.7	1,155.6	1,220.8	1,233.4
Persons not in education, who want work ¹	61.5	63.0	66.8	69.5	63.3	63.6	67.6	63.5	62.7
Persons in education, who want work ¹	39.3	51.5	33.7	39.9	37.6	48.7	32.4	38.8	38.9
All other persons	1,109.0	1,090.3	1,044.4	1,102.9	1,124.0	1,112.5	1,055.6	1,118.5	1,131.8
Total persons aged 15 or over	2,957.8	2,962.6	2,975.0	3,003.6	3,013.2	3,017.3	3,034.0	3,058.0	3,071.1

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
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
Mar-May 2001	4.1	7.5	7.7
Jun-Aug 2001	4.7	8.2	8.3
Sep-Nov 2001	4.5	7.8	7.9
Dec-Feb 2002	4.9	8.2	8.3

%

NOTE : Definitions of indicators by reference to Table 17 :

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

'000

Principal Economic Status	Quarterly National Household Survey						
	Dec-Feb 00	Sep-Nov 00	Dec-Feb 01	Mar-May 01	Jun-Aug 01	Sep-Nov 01	Dec-Feb 02
Males							
At work	952.6	975.4	978.7	986.0	999.5	994.9	985.1
Unemployed	79.7	72.3	70.0	67.3	73.6	73.3	82.3
Student	173.2	171.8	175.8	176.7	161.4	174.6	179.8
Home duties	8.5	7.6	8.4	5.4	6.4	5.0	5.5
Retired	187.0	192.7	193.7	195.1	194.9	194.7	195.8
Others	53.9	57.6	55.8	55.3	58.5	60.5	61.9
Total males	1,455.0	1,477.6	1,482.4	1,485.8	1,494.2	1,502.9	1,510.5
Females							
At work	626.7	657.3	656.9	661.2	682.6	684.1	684.0
Unemployed	37.3	35.0	33.4	32.2	39.0	36.3	38.8
Student	191.1	192.6	200.5	202.4	182.5	196.8	200.8
Home duties	560.4	554.0	552.0	545.9	543.7	545.9	545.8
Retired	61.1	60.5	60.8	60.9	61.4	60.6	61.5
Others	26.1	26.5	27.1	29.0	30.7	31.4	29.7
Total females	1,502.8	1,526.0	1,530.8	1,531.5	1,539.8	1,555.1	1,560.6
All persons							
At work	1,579.3	1,632.8	1,635.5	1,647.2	1,682.1	1,679.0	1,669.1
Unemployed	117.0	107.3	103.4	99.5	112.5	109.6	121.1
Student	364.4	364.4	376.3	379.1	343.8	371.4	380.6
Home duties	568.9	561.7	560.4	551.3	550.1	550.9	551.4
Retired	248.1	253.2	254.6	256.0	256.3	255.3	257.3
Others	80.0	84.2	83.0	84.2	89.2	91.9	91.6
Total persons	2,957.8	3,003.6	3,013.2	3,017.3	3,034.0	3,058.0	3,071.1

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 2002

1 000

ILO economic status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
Males							
In employment :	981.1	3.4	25.0	0.1	3.7	1.7	1,015.1
full-time	939.2	2.3	1.2	0.0	0.8	1.1	944.6
part-time :	41.9	1.1	23.8	0.1	2.9	0.7	70.5
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	40.8	0.8	23.8	0.1	2.9	0.6	69.1
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	1.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4
Unemployed :	1.1	46.4	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.9	50.0
seeking full-time work	1.0	45.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.7	47.7
seeking part-time work	0.0	1.2	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.2	2.3
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.4	5.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	7.7
Others	1.6	27.0	153.7	5.2	191.1	59.0	437.7
Total males aged 15 or over	985.1	82.3	179.8	5.5	195.8	61.9	1,510.5
Females							
In employment :	680.5	1.7	33.8	12.1	0.5	1.7	730.4
full-time	500.3	1.0	1.8	1.9	0.0	1.2	506.2
part-time :	180.2	0.7	32.0	10.2	0.5	0.5	224.1
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	179.2	0.6	32.0	10.2	0.5	0.5	222.9
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.2
Unemployed :	0.6	19.7	1.2	8.1	0.1	0.3	30.0
seeking full-time work	0.4	15.9	0.3	3.2	0.0	0.1	19.9
seeking part-time work	0.2	3.8	1.0	4.9	0.1	0.1	10.1
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.2	1.6	0.4	1.2	0.0	0.1	4.5
Others	1.7	15.9	165.4	524.3	60.8	27.7	795.8
Total females aged 15 or over	684.0	38.8	200.8	545.8	61.5	29.7	1,560.6
All persons							
In employment :	1,661.6	5.1	58.9	12.3	4.3	3.4	1,745.5
full-time	1,439.5	3.3	3.0	1.9	0.8	2.3	1,450.8
part-time :	222.1	1.8	55.8	10.3	3.4	1.1	294.6
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	220.1	1.4	55.8	10.3	3.4	1.1	292.1
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	2.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	2.6
Unemployed :	1.7	66.0	1.9	8.3	0.8	1.2	80.0
seeking full-time work	1.5	61.1	0.5	3.3	0.5	0.8	67.5
seeking part-time work	0.2	5.0	1.5	5.1	0.4	0.4	12.4
Marginally attached to the labour force	2.6	7.0	0.7	1.3	0.3	0.4	12.2
Others	3.3	42.9	319.1	529.5	251.9	86.7	1,233.4
Total persons aged 15 or over	1,669.1	121.1	380.6	551.4	257.3	91.6	3,071.1

Table 21 Estimated *adult*¹ members of family units classified by composition of family unit, ILO economic status and sex, QNHS, December-February 2002

¹ 000

Composition of family unit	In employment			Unemployed			Not economically active			Total ²		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Males	Females	Total
Husband and wife (or couple) without children												
Wife/Female partner aged under 45	76.3	72.4	148.6	2.4	2.0	4.4	3.8	8.5	12.3	82.4	82.9	165.3
Wife/Female partner aged 45 to 64	55.2	35.5	90.7	1.8	0.9	2.8	38.7	59.5	98.2	95.8	96.0	191.8
Wife/Female partner aged 65 or over	7.5	1.9	9.4	*	*	*	55.8	63.1	118.9	63.5	65.0	128.5
Total	139.0	109.8	248.7	4.4	3.0	7.4	98.3	131.2	229.5	241.6	243.9	485.6
Husband and wife (or couple) with children												
At least 1 child aged under 5 and no child aged 15 or over	142.3	88.0	230.3	5.2	3.0	8.2	7.7	64.8	72.5	155.2	155.8	311.0
At least 1 child aged under 5 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	9.8	4.2	14.0	0.6	*	0.7	1.3	7.0	8.3	11.7	11.3	23.0
All children aged 5 to 14	61.3	39.2	100.5	1.7	1.4	3.1	3.4	25.0	28.4	66.4	65.6	132.0
No child aged under 5, at least 1 child aged 5 to 14 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	112.6	67.8	180.4	3.2	2.3	5.5	9.8	51.8	61.5	125.6	121.8	247.4
All children aged 15 or over	130.7	75.3	205.9	3.7	1.4	5.1	51.7	107.6	159.3	186.0	184.3	370.3
Total	456.6	274.5	731.1	14.4	8.1	22.6	73.9	256.2	330.0	544.9	538.8	1,083.7
Lone parent with children												
At least 1 child aged under 5 and no child aged 15 or over	0.8	17.8	18.6	*	2.2	2.2	0.4	20.3	20.7	1.3	40.3	41.5
At least 1 child aged under 5 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	*	1.2	1.2	*	*	*	*	1.3	1.3	*	2.6	2.6
All children aged 5 to 14	1.0	13.2	14.2	*	1.0	1.1	0.4	6.4	6.8	1.5	20.7	22.2
No child aged under 5, at least 1 child aged 5 to 14 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	3.0	15.8	18.8	*	0.9	1.0	1.0	7.7	8.7	4.1	24.3	28.4
All children aged 15 or over	7.5	18.8	26.3	0.4	0.8	1.2	9.0	47.0	56.0	16.9	66.7	83.6
Total	12.4	66.8	79.2	0.6	5.0	5.6	10.8	82.7	93.6	23.8	154.5	178.4
Total	607.9	451.1	1,059.0	19.5	16.1	35.6	182.9	470.1	653.0	810.4	937.3	1,747.6

¹ For the purpose of the table, an adult is either a lone parent or a member of a couple.

² See the discussion on the grossing effect in the background notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

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

	Q2/1999					Q2/2000				
	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)	171,687	155,498	15,940	55.9	9.4	172,815	158,372	14,228	56.0	8.4
Eurozone (EUR-11)	130,852	117,436	13,177	54.6	10.3	131,825	119,872	11,741	54.7	9.1
Austria	3,859	3,678	181	59.0	4.7	3,864	3,683	181	58.7	4.7
Belgium	4,365	3,987	378	51.9	8.6	4,411	4,120	290	52.3	6.6
Denmark	2,855	2,708	146	65.8	5.1	2,843	2,716	127	65.5	4.5
Federal Republic of Germany	39,595	36,089	3,445	57.9	8.9	39,448	36,324	3,050	57.5	7.9
Finland	2,642	2,333	303	63.0	11.7	2,664	2,367	288	63.2	11.1
France	25,882	22,755	3,127	55.8	12.1	26,057	23,388	2,669	55.7	10.2
Greece	4,463	3,940	523	50.7	11.7	4,437	3,946	491	50.0	11.1
Ireland	1,688	1,591	97	57.9	5.7	1,746	1,671	75	58.9	4.3
Italy	23,347	20,618	2,693	48.1	11.7	23,475	20,930	2,523	48.1	10.8
Luxembourg	180	176	4	52.4	2.4	185	181	4	53.4	2.3
Netherlands	7,890	7,605	248	62.5	3.6	8,080	7,860	185	63.5	2.7
Portugal	5,063	4,830	231	61.3	4.6	5,095	4,898	195	61.4	3.9
Spain	16,339	13,773	2,566	49.4	15.7	16,803	14,450	2,354	50.5	14.0
Sweden	4,388	4,054	329	60.9	7.6	4,364	4,125	238	60.4	5.5
United Kingdom	29,129	27,361	1,765	62.1	6.1	29,345	27,711	1,631	62.3	5.6

Source : Eurostat

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

Note: Table contains revised 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 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.

Family Units

Table 21 presents family data. The definition used is as follows:

Family Unit

A family unit consists of either:

1. a married couple, or
2. a married couple and one or more of their never-married children, or
3. one parent and one or more of his or her never-married children, or
4. a couple living together (with never-married children, if any) who are not married to each other, where it is clear that the couple form a "de facto" family unit.

Households may contain more than one family unit or may contain a family together with other persons not in a family unit as defined above.

However, there are problems identifying some unmarried parents with children as separate family units. This happens particularly where one unmarried parent with one or more children lives with his/her parent(s) and the information recorded in the survey on the relationship to the reference person does not clearly identify the parent/child relationships. In such cases, the unmarried parent and children may not be identified as a distinct family unit. As a result, the number of family units consisting of unmarried parents with children is probably understated to some degree.

Grossing Effect

The QNHS grossing procedure aligns the distribution of persons covered in the survey with independently determined population estimates at the level of sex, five-year age group and region. This means that the adjustment factors assigned to each spouse within a family unit will differ. Accordingly, some male and female estimates in family tables, which might be expected to be identical, differ slightly. Another factor effecting the slight difference is that, in a small number of cases, gender was incorrectly recorded or coded.

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.

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.

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