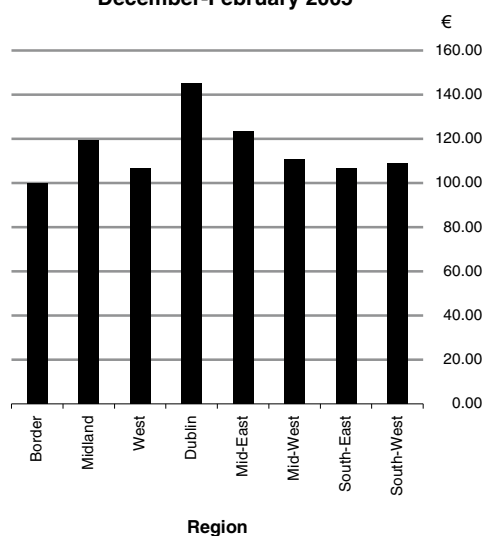


Average cost of paid childcare per household per week classified by region, December-February 2005



Quarterly National Household Survey Childcare Quarter 1 2005

Average cost of childcare exceeds €120 per week

In the first quarter of 2005 the average cost of paid childcare was just over €120 per week. This represents an increase of over 23% in the 2 year period between the fourth quarter of 2002 and the first quarter of 2005. The average household cost varied by region with families in the Border region paying just under €100 per week while at the other end of the scale families in the Dublin region were paying more than €145 per week. For those families who required more than 40 hours of paid childcare a week the average cost was just over €184. *See table 7 and graph opposite.*

These results are taken from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) modules on Childcare which were undertaken in the fourth quarter of 2002 and the first quarter of 2005. Please note 2002 figures contain revised data.

In the first quarter of 2005, 82,600 (40.3%) families with pre-school children regularly relied on non-parental childcare arrangements during the normal working day. This represents a slight increase on the corresponding 2002 figure when almost 38% of families with pre-school children availed of non-parental childcare. *See table 2a.*

Usage of non-parental childcare for primary school-going children was not as common with 66,700 (21.5%) families availing of this type of childcare on a regular basis. This represents a slight decline on the 2002 figures when just over 22% of all such families relied on non-parental childcare. *See table 2b.*

In 2005 non-parental childcare was specified by 72,500 (42.0%) couples as the main childcare arrangement for their pre-school children with 55,000 (21.4%) having such arrangements for their primary school-going children. *See tables 3a & 3b.*

Lone parent households relied to a lesser extent (31.3%) on non-parental childcare for their pre-school children. A little over 21% relied on this type of childcare for their school-going children. *See tables 4a & 4b.*

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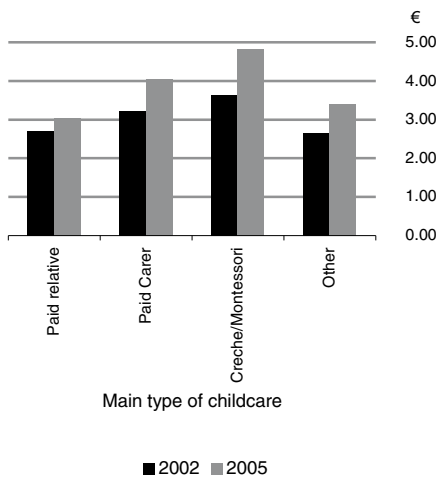
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Ref 95/2006

Average cost of paid childcare for pre-school children per hour classified by main type of childcare, q4 2002 and q1 2005



Pre-school childcare costs exceed that of primary school-going children

In the first quarter of 2005 the average weekly cost of childcare for families with pre-school children only was €131.35 while the rate for families with primary school-going children only was €86.82. Families with both pre-school and primary school going-children paid an average of €132.48 a week. *See table 7.*

The average cost of paid childcare per child per hour for pre-school children and primary school-going children in the first quarter of 2005 was €4.15 and €5.68 respectively. This represents an increase of 27.3% and 20.1% respectively over the 2 years since the fourth quarter 2002. *See tables 6a & 6b.*

In the first quarter of 2005 crèche or montessori was the most expensive form of childcare for pre-school children with an average hourly rate of €4.82 per child. This was also the case for primary school-going children, with an average hourly cost of €6.05 per child. At an overall level, the hourly rate for childcare declined as the number of childcare hours increased. *See tables 6a, 6b and graph opposite.*

For pre-school children the average hourly rate for paid childcare was highest in the Dublin region at €5.15, over 24% higher than the State average. For primary school-going children the cost in the Dublin region was €6.71, 18.1% higher than the State average for these children. *See tables 6a & 6b.*

Unpaid relatives are an important source of childcare for primary school-going children

In 2005 unpaid relatives (9.7%) were the main non-parental childcare used by families with primary school-going children. In relation to families with primary school-going children 6.5% used a paid carer, 2.6% a paid relative, 1.4% a crèche or montessori and 1.3% another type of childcare. *See table 2b.*

Paid carers (12.1%) and unpaid relatives (11.5%) were the two most popular types of non-parental childcare for families with pre-school children. One tenth of families used crèche or montessori as their main type of childcare, while 4.5% used a paid relative with the remaining families using another type of childcare. *See table 2a.*

Couples with pre-school children were more reliant on paid childcare than their lone parent counterparts with over 30% of couples reliant on paid childcare compared to just over 18% of lone parent families. Similarly, for those families with primary school-going children, almost 12% of couples depended on paid childcare while the comparable figure for lone parents was almost 9%. *See tables 3a, 3b, 4a & 4b.*

Despite the obvious reliance on non-parental childcare for both pre-school and primary school-going children, parents or guardians were the main carers during the normal working day for families with pre-school children (59.7%), and families with primary school-going children (78.5%). *See tables 2a & 2b.*

Regional differences in childcare preference

In 2005 crèche or montessori was the most popular non-parental childcare type for families with pre-school children in the Dublin (15.5%) and Mid-East (11.7%) regions. In the Border, Midland and South-East regions, unpaid relatives were the main non-parental care type used. Paid carers proved to be the predominant non-parental childcare type for families of pre-school children in the West, Mid-West and South-West regions.

For primary school-going children, the most favoured non-parental childcare type was an unpaid relative except in the West where paid carers (8.1%) were more popular. *See tables 2a & 2b.*

One third of lone parents at work

Of the 31,900 lone parents with pre-school children, almost one third (32.9%) were at work in the first quarter of 2005 with an additional 54.8% on home duties. For couples with pre-school children there were 96,200 (55.7%) mothers or guardians at work and 70,200 (40.6%) on home duties. *See tables 3a & 4a.*

In relation to lone parent families with primary school-going children, almost 48% were at work and over 43% were on home duties. The comparable figures for couples with primary school-going children were over 54% and 42% respectively. *See tables 4a & 4b.*

Percentage of couples and lone parents with pre-school going children classified by Principal Economic Status of mother or guardian, December-February 2005

PES of mother/guardian	%	
	Couples	Lone parents
At work	55.7	32.9
Unemployed	1.3	4.1
Student	0.8	5.3
Home duties	40.6	54.9
Retired/Other	1.6	2.8

Percentage of couples and lone parents with primary school-going children classified by Principal Economic Status of mother or guardian, December-February 2005

PES of mother/guardian	%	
	Couples	Lone parents
At work	54.2	47.7
Unemployed	1.1	4.3
Student	1.0	3.1
Home duties	42.3	43.3
Retired/Other	1.3	1.7

Tables

**Table 1a Families with pre-school or primary school-going children,
September-November 2002 and December-February 2005**

	'000							
	Pre-school only		Primary only		Both		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
Total number of families	91.1	102.3	209.0	208.2	98.2	102.7	398.3	413.1
Age group of mother/guardian¹								
15-24	13.8	14.9	2.2	2.2	3.2	2.6	19.2	19.7
25-34	52.9	57.5	41.2	38.2	42.6	42.6	136.6	138.4
35-44	22.8	28.0	119.1	118.5	50.2	55.1	192.0	201.6
45+	1.5	1.8	46.5	49.2	2.3	2.5	50.4	53.4
PES² of mother/guardian¹								
At work	51.8	62.0	113.1	120.0	42.0	45.0	206.9	227.0
Unemployed	2.9	2.1	4.3	3.8	1.8	1.4	9.0	7.3
Student	0.8	2.3	2.6	3.5	0.9	0.8	4.2	6.6
Home duties	33.7	34.1	86.1	78.4	52.5	53.7	172.3	166.1
Retired/Other	1.9	1.8	2.9	2.5	1.0	1.8	5.8	6.2
Region								
Border	10.2	11.4	25.2	24.6	10.6	11.1	46.0	47.2
Midland	5.8	5.5	11.8	12.6	6.1	7.1	23.7	25.1
West	9.7	8.7	20.0	18.7	9.0	11.0	38.8	38.5
Dublin	23.5	26.6	53.8	57.0	25.7	27.6	103.0	111.2
Mid-East	10.6	12.9	24.5	24.2	11.5	12.7	46.6	49.8
Mid-West	8.0	10.0	19.7	18.6	9.5	8.6	37.3	37.2
South-East	9.7	11.6	23.6	24.2	10.8	9.9	44.1	45.7
South-West	13.6	15.5	30.4	28.3	14.8	14.6	58.8	58.5
Number of children								
1	63.8	69.2	112.0	113.9	-	-	175.8	183.0
2	25.0	29.8	74.4	69.9	45.9	48.2	145.3	148.0
3	2.3	3.0	19.6	19.9	36.3	38.4	58.1	61.4
4+	-	0.3	3.0	4.5	16.0	16.0	19.0	20.8

¹ In the case of couples, the age of the mother or guardian is used. In the case of lone parents, the age of the respondent is used.

² See Background Notes.

**Table 1b Couples with pre-school or primary school-going children,
September-November 2002 and December-February 2005**

	'000							
	Pre-school only		Primary only		Both		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
Total number of couples	76.6	84.7	171.0	168.5	86.4	88.2	334.0	341.4
Age group of mother/guardian¹								
15-24	6.8	7.0	0.9	0.6	1.5	1.0	9.2	8.6
25-34	47.3	50.4	25.6	22.3	35.9	34.1	108.8	106.9
35-44	21.1	25.8	103.7	102.3	47.1	51.0	171.8	179.2
45+	1.4	1.4	40.7	43.2	2.0	2.2	44.2	46.8
PES² of mother/guardian¹								
At work	47.4	55.5	91.6	98.3	38.1	40.8	177.1	194.6
Unemployed	1.6	1.4	2.7	2.1	1.5	0.9	5.7	4.3
Student	0.3	0.8	1.8	2.1	0.5	0.5	2.6	3.4
Home duties	25.8	25.7	72.7	64.1	45.3	44.5	143.9	134.3
Retired/Other	1.4	1.2	2.2	1.9	1.0	1.6	4.6	4.7
Employment of couple-PES²								
Both working	45.5	53.1	86.1	92.4	36.2	39.2	167.8	184.7
One working	25.7	25.7	75.9	67.7	44.0	42.2	145.7	135.7
Other	5.4	5.9	8.9	8.3	6.2	6.8	20.4	21.0
Region								
Border	8.9	9.4	20.5	20.8	9.7	9.8	39.1	40.0
Midland	4.7	4.1	10.2	10.3	5.4	5.8	20.2	20.1
West	7.9	7.7	17.4	15.4	8.4	10.2	33.8	33.3
Dublin	19.3	21.2	41.4	42.9	21.0	23.0	81.8	87.1
Mid-East	9.3	11.3	20.9	20.5	10.3	11.1	40.5	42.8
Mid-West	6.6	8.3	15.9	15.5	8.6	7.2	31.1	31.0
South-East	8.1	9.6	20.0	19.2	9.5	8.6	37.6	37.4
South-West	11.7	13.1	24.7	23.9	13.6	12.7	49.9	49.7
Number of children								
1	52.2	54.1	87.1	87.9	-	-	139.3	142.0
2	22.3	27.5	64.1	59.7	39.3	40.4	125.7	127.6
3	2.0	2.8	17.2	17.1	32.8	34.5	52.0	54.4
4+	-	0.3	2.6	3.7	14.3	13.4	16.9	17.4

¹ In the case of couples, the age of the mother or guardian is used.

² See Background Notes.

**Table 1c Lone parents with pre-school or primary school-going children,
September-November 2002 and December-February 2005**

	'000							
	Pre-school only		Primary only		Both		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
Total number of lone parents	14.5	17.5	38.0	39.7	11.8	14.4	64.3	71.6
Age group of mother/guardian¹								
15-24	7.1	8.0	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.6	10.1	11.1
25-34	5.6	7.0	15.6	16.0	6.7	8.5	27.8	31.5
35-44	1.7	2.2	15.4	16.2	3.1	4.0	20.2	22.4
45+	*	0.4	5.7	5.9	0.3	0.3	6.2	6.6
PES² of mother/guardian¹								
At work	4.4	6.4	21.5	21.7	3.9	4.1	29.8	32.2
Unemployed	1.3	0.7	1.7	1.7	0.3	0.6	3.3	3.0
Student	0.4	1.5	0.8	1.4	0.4	0.3	1.6	3.2
Home duties	7.9	8.4	13.4	14.3	7.2	9.1	28.4	31.8
Retired/Other	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	-	0.3	1.2	1.5
Region								
Border	1.3	2.0	4.7	3.8	1.0	1.3	6.9	7.2
Midland	1.1	1.4	1.6	2.3	0.8	1.3	3.4	5.0
West	1.8	1.0	2.6	3.3	0.6	0.8	5.0	5.2
Dublin	4.1	5.4	12.4	14.1	4.7	4.6	21.2	24.1
Mid-East	1.3	1.7	3.6	3.7	1.2	1.7	6.1	7.0
Mid-West	1.4	1.7	3.8	3.1	0.9	1.4	6.1	6.1
South-East	1.5	2.0	3.6	5.0	1.4	1.3	6.6	8.4
South-West	1.9	2.4	5.7	4.4	1.3	1.9	8.9	8.7
Number of children								
1	11.5	15.1	25.0	25.9	-	-	36.5	41.0
2	2.7	2.3	10.3	10.2	6.6	7.8	19.6	20.3
3	0.3	*	2.3	2.8	3.5	3.9	6.1	6.9
4+	-	-	0.3	0.8	1.8	2.6	2.1	3.4

¹ In the case of lone parents, the age of the respondent is used.

² See Background Notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 2a Families classified by main type of childcare¹ arrangement used for pre-school children, September-November 2002 and December-February 2005

	'000													
	Parent/guardian		Unpaid relative		Paid relative		Paid carer		Creche/montessori		Other		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
Total number of families	117.4	122.3	19.8	23.6	8.7	9.2	24.7	22.7	17.6	20.6	3.0	4.5	189.2	204.9
Age of mother/guardian²														
15-24	12.7	12.6	1.9	2.2	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.9	*	*	17.0	17.5
25-34	58.9	59.4	11.3	13.5	5.1	5.2	9.8	10.7	8.2	10.0	1.2	2.2	95.4	100.0
35-44	43.3	47.4	6.0	7.6	2.9	3.2	13.5	11.2	8.2	9.5	1.4	1.8	72.9	83.1
45+	2.6	2.8	0.6	0.4	*	*	0.5	*	0.3	*	*	0.3	3.8	4.3
PES³ of mother/guardian²														
At work	28.8	32.4	18.8	22.1	8.5	8.8	23.6	22.0	14.0	17.5	1.7	2.5	93.7	106.9
Unemployed	4.2	3.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	4.7	3.5
Student	0.6	1.1	0.4	0.9	*	*	0.3	*	0.4	0.6	*	*	1.6	3.1
On home duties	81.2	82.7	0.5	0.3	*	*	0.6	0.5	2.7	2.1	1.2	1.8	86.2	87.7
Retired/Other	2.6	2.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.9	3.7
Region														
Border	12.9	13.8	3.1	3.6	0.8	1.1	2.4	2.4	1.4	1.5	*	*	20.8	22.6
Midland	7.3	7.2	1.1	1.6	0.5	0.6	1.5	2.0	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.5	11.9	12.6
West	11.5	12.4	2.2	1.4	0.8	0.7	3.5	2.8	1.3	1.4	*	0.4	18.8	19.8
Dublin	29.7	33.4	4.6	4.6	2.1	2.4	4.4	3.5	8.8	8.4	0.4	0.9	49.1	54.2
Mid-East	14.7	15.5	1.5	2.7	1.3	1.2	2.6	2.6	1.6	3.0	0.4	0.5	22.1	25.6
Mid-West	11.3	11.3	1.5	2.1	0.6	0.8	2.4	2.4	1.5	1.4	0.4	0.4	17.6	18.6
South-East	12.6	12.9	2.7	3.5	1.3	1.1	2.4	2.8	0.9	1.2	*	0.3	20.5	21.4
South-West	17.5	15.7	3.2	4.0	1.3	1.2	5.4	4.2	1.4	2.6	0.8	1.2	28.4	30.2
Number of children														
1	34.0	35.2	9.4	11.9	4.2	2.9	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.9	0.6	1.5	63.8	69.2
2	43.7	46.0	6.8	8.2	2.9	4.7	9.6	9.1	6.9	8.0	1.3	1.7	70.8	78.1
3	26.3	28.5	3.0	2.9	1.2	1.2	4.8	4.6	2.9	3.0	0.7	1.0	38.6	41.4
4+	13.4	12.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.3	1.5	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.3	16.0	16.3
Family Structure														
Pre-school children only	50.3	53.7	12.0	15.1	5.3	5.2	13.5	12.2	10.1	12.7	1.1	2.1	91.1	102.3
Both	67.1	68.6	7.8	8.5	3.3	4.0	11.2	10.5	7.5	7.9	1.9	2.4	98.2	102.6

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² In the case of couples, the age of the mother or guardian is used. In the case of lone parents, the age of the respondent is used.

³ See Background Notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 2b Families classified by main type of childcare¹ arrangement used for primary school-going children, September-November 2002 and December-February 2005

	Parent/guardian		Unpaid relative		Paid relative		Paid carer		Creche/montessori		Other		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
Total number of families	239.5	244.1	28.2	30.2	9.7	8.1	23.0	20.3	4.2	4.2	2.5	3.9	307.2	310.8
Age of mother/guardian²														
15-24	4.2	3.8	0.8	0.7	*	*	0.2	*	*	*	*	*	5.4	4.8
25-34	63.7	60.9	9.8	10.9	3.5	3.1	4.8	4.0	1.4	1.2	0.5	0.8	83.8	80.9
35-44	129.6	134.9	14.6	15.0	5.3	4.2	15.6	14.2	2.6	2.8	1.6	2.6	169.3	173.5
45+	41.9	44.5	3.0	3.7	0.7	0.6	2.4	2.1	0.3	*	0.4	0.6	48.8	51.6
PES³ of mother/guardian²														
At work	90.7	102.1	26.8	28.2	9.5	7.9	22.0	19.4	3.9	3.6	2.2	3.7	155.1	164.9
Unemployed	5.9	4.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.2	5.2
Student	2.2	2.9	0.6	0.9	*	*	0.5	0.3	*	*	*	*	3.4	4.3
On home duties	137.1	130.1	0.5	0.9	*	*	0.4	0.4	*	0.4	0.3	*	138.6	132.0
Retired/Other	3.6	4.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.9	4.3
Region														
Border	27.8	28.9	4.3	3.9	1.1	1.0	2.0	1.3	0.4	*	*	0.4	35.8	35.7
Midland	13.7	14.6	1.5	2.7	0.6	0.5	1.4	1.5	*	*	0.4	0.3	17.9	19.7
West	22.2	24.4	3.3	1.9	0.6	0.6	2.5	2.4	0.3	*	*	0.3	29.1	29.7
Dublin	63.0	67.6	6.5	6.8	2.2	2.4	5.2	4.3	1.9	2.1	0.9	1.3	79.6	84.6
Mid-East	27.7	28.5	2.8	3.1	1.8	1.1	3.0	2.8	0.5	0.6	*	0.8	36.0	36.9
Mid-West	23.1	21.6	2.7	2.7	0.7	0.4	1.8	1.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	29.2	27.2
South-East	26.2	25.7	3.4	4.4	1.7	1.1	3.0	2.5	*	0.3	*	*	34.5	34.1
South-West	35.8	32.9	3.8	4.8	1.0	0.9	4.2	3.8	*	0.4	*	*	45.2	42.9
Number of children														
1	86.4	86.8	13.1	14.9	3.1	3.1	6.8	5.6	1.5	1.3	1.2	2.1	112.0	113.9
2	92.4	91.4	10.9	10.5	4.4	3.5	10.0	9.5	1.9	2.1	0.8	1.2	120.3	118.2
3	43.8	47.7	3.7	4.1	1.9	1.2	5.4	4.1	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5	55.8	58.3
4+	17.0	18.1	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.9	1.1	*	*	*	*	19.0	20.5
Family Structure														
Primary school going children only	164.4	164.0	20.7	21.8	6.4	5.1	13.6	12.0	2.0	2.2	1.9	3.1	209.0	208.2
Both	75.1	80.1	7.5	8.5	3.3	3.0	9.4	8.3	2.2	2.0	0.6	0.8	98.2	102.6

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² In the case of couples, the age of the mother or guardian is used. In the case of lone parents, the age of the respondent is used.

³ See Background Notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 3a Couples with children classified by main type of childcare¹ arrangement used for pre-school children, September–November 2002 and December–February 2005

	Parent/guardian		Unpaid relative		Paid relative		Paid carer		Creche/montessori		Other		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
Total couples	98.4	100.3	16.9	19.4	7.7	8.3	21.7	23.2	15.6	17.9	2.6	3.7	162.9	172.8
Age of mother/guardian²														
15-24	5.6	5.4	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	*	*	8.2	8.0
25-34	50.2	49.4	9.9	11.3	4.5	4.8	10.2	8.9	7.4	8.5	0.9	1.7	83.2	84.5
35-44	40.3	43.1	5.4	6.8	2.7	3.1	10.9	13.2	7.5	8.8	1.4	1.7	68.1	76.8
45+	2.3	2.4	0.5	0.3	*	*	*	0.5	0.3	*	*	*	3.3	3.6
PES³ of mother/guardian²														
At work	26.4	29.7	16.2	18.6	7.6	8.0	21.1	22.3	12.7	15.5	1.4	2.1	85.5	96.2
Unemployed	2.7	2.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	3.0	2.3
Student	0.4	0.7	*	0.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.9	1.3
Home duties	66.8	65.8	0.4	0.3	*	*	0.5	0.6	2.2	1.8	1.1	1.5	71.1	70.2
Retired/Other	2.1	2.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.4	2.8
Employment of couple-PES³														
Both Working	23.7	26.3	15.8	18.3	7.5	7.9	21.0	22.2	12.3	15.4	1.4	2.1	81.7	92.2
One Working	63.9	61.9	1.0	0.9	*	0.4	0.7	0.9	2.9	2.2	1.1	1.6	69.7	68.0
Other	10.9	12.1	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.5	0.3	*	*	11.5	12.7
Region														
Border	11.3	11.8	2.7	2.9	0.8	1.1	2.2	2.2	1.4	1.1	*	*	18.5	19.2
Midland	5.9	5.7	0.9	1.1	0.4	0.5	1.9	1.3	0.6	0.9	*	0.5	10.0	9.9
West	9.9	11.1	1.8	1.4	0.7	0.6	2.6	3.2	1.1	1.2	*	0.3	16.4	17.9
Dublin	23.4	26.5	3.6	3.4	1.8	2.1	3.4	4.0	7.7	7.4	0.4	0.8	40.3	44.2
Mid-East	12.8	12.8	1.3	2.4	1.2	1.1	2.5	2.6	1.5	3.0	0.3	0.5	19.6	22.3
Mid-West	9.5	9.1	1.3	1.8	0.6	0.8	2.4	2.4	1.2	1.2	0.3	0.3	15.2	15.5
South-East	10.6	10.7	2.3	3.1	1.0	0.9	2.7	2.3	0.8	0.9	*	*	17.6	18.1
South-West	15.0	12.7	2.9	3.5	1.2	1.2	4.0	5.2	1.2	2.2	0.8	1.1	25.2	25.8
Number of children														
1	26.2	25.6	7.8	9.1	3.8	2.7	7.8	7.9	6.2	7.7	0.5	1.1	52.2	54.1
2	37.0	39.1	6.0	7.0	2.6	4.3	8.6	9.1	6.3	6.9	1.1	1.4	61.5	67.8
3	23.4	25.2	2.6	2.7	1.0	1.1	4.6	4.6	2.7	2.6	0.6	0.9	34.8	37.2
4+	11.9	10.4	0.6	0.6	0.3	*	0.7	1.5	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.3	14.3	13.7
Family Structure														
Pre-school children only	40.0	42.6	10.3	12.1	4.9	4.8	11.6	12.5	8.9	11.2	0.9	1.6	76.6	84.7
Both	58.5	57.7	6.6	7.4	2.8	3.6	10.1	10.7	6.6	6.7	1.7	2.1	86.3	88.2

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² In the case of couples, the age of the mother or guardian is used.

³ See Background Notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 3b Couples with children classified by main type of childcare¹ arrangement used for primary school-going children, September–November 2002 and December–February 2005

	Parent/guardian		Unpaid relative		Paid relative		Paid carer		Creche/montessori		Other		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
Total couples	202.2	201.6	21.9	23.4	8.1	6.9	19.9	18.1	3.5	3.6	1.8	3.0	257.4	256.6
Age of mother/guardian²														
15-24	1.8	1.2	0.4	0.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.4	1.6
25-34	47.0	41.8	6.6	7.9	2.8	2.5	3.8	2.9	1.1	0.9	0.3	0.4	61.5	56.4
35-44	116.2	119.4	12.2	12.3	4.8	3.7	14.0	13.2	2.2	2.5	1.3	2.1	150.7	153.3
45+	37.1	39.2	2.7	3.0	0.4	0.5	2.0	2.0	*	*	*	0.5	42.7	45.4
PES³ of mother/guardian²														
At work	76.9	86.6	21.1	22.3	7.9	6.7	19.0	17.5	3.3	3.2	1.5	2.8	129.7	139.0
Unemployed	3.9	2.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.1	2.9
Student	1.5	1.9	*	0.4	*	*	0.5	*	*	*	*	*	2.3	2.6
Home duties	116.9	107.1	0.4	0.6	*	*	0.4	0.4	*	0.3	*	*	118.0	108.6
Retired/Other	2.9	3.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.2	3.4
Employment of couple-PES³														
Both Working	70.1	79.8	20.8	21.9	7.8	6.6	18.9	17.4	3.3	3.1	1.4	2.7	122.4	131.6
One Working	117.2	106.9	1.1	1.4	*	0.3	0.9	0.7	*	0.4	0.3	*	120.0	109.9
Other	14.8	14.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	15.1	15.1
Region														
Border	23.6	25.0	3.5	3.1	0.9	0.9	1.6	1.1	0.4	*	*	0.4	30.2	30.5
Midland	12.1	12.1	1.2	1.9	0.5	0.4	1.3	1.3	0.3	*	*	0.3	15.6	16.1
West	19.7	21.0	2.8	1.4	0.5	0.6	2.3	2.2	0.3	*	*	0.3	25.8	25.6
Dublin	50.0	52.7	4.5	4.7	1.7	1.9	4.3	3.9	1.4	1.9	0.6	0.8	62.5	65.9
Mid-East	24.3	24.4	2.0	2.6	1.6	0.9	2.7	2.4	0.4	0.6	*	0.7	31.2	31.5
Mid-West	19.7	18.0	2.1	2.1	0.7	0.4	1.3	1.6	0.4	*	0.3	0.4	24.5	22.7
South-East	22.5	20.7	2.8	3.6	1.3	0.9	2.6	2.2	*	0.3	*	*	29.4	27.7
South-West	30.3	27.8	3.0	4.1	0.8	0.9	3.8	3.4	*	*	*	*	38.2	36.6
Number of children														
1	68.9	68.3	9.2	10.4	2.3	2.4	5.1	4.5	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.4	87.1	87.9
2	79.7	76.5	8.8	8.7	3.9	3.2	8.7	8.7	1.7	1.9	0.6	1.0	103.4	100.1
3	38.7	41.8	3.4	3.7	1.6	1.0	5.3	3.8	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5	50.0	51.6
4+	15.0	15.0	0.5	0.6	0.3	*	0.8	1.1	*	*	*	*	16.9	17.1
Family Structure														
Primary school-going children only	136.8	134.1	15.2	16.0	5.2	4.2	11.1	10.4	1.4	1.6	1.3	2.2	171.0	168.5
Both	65.4	67.5	6.7	7.4	2.9	2.7	8.8	7.8	2.0	2.0	0.5	0.8	86.4	88.2

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² In the case of couples, the age of the mother or guardian is used.

³ See Background notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 4a Lone parents with children classified by main type of childcare¹ arrangement used for pre-school children, September-November 2002 and December-February 2005

	Parent/guardian		Unpaid relative		Paid childcare ²		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
Total lone parents	19.0	21.9	2.9	4.2	4.4	5.8	26.3	31.9
Age of mother/guardian³								
15-24	7.0	7.2	0.8	1.2	1.0	1.1	8.8	9.5
25-34	8.7	10.0	1.4	2.2	2.2	3.3	12.2	15.5
35-44	2.9	4.3	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.2	4.8	6.2
45+	0.3	0.4	*	*	*	*	0.5	0.7
PES⁴ of mother/guardian³								
At work	2.3	2.6	2.6	3.5	3.3	4.4	8.2	10.5
Unemployed	1.5	1.2	*	*	*	*	1.6	1.3
Student	*	0.5	*	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.8	1.7
Home duties	14.4	16.9	*	*	0.7	0.5	15.1	17.5
Retired/Other	0.5	0.7	*	*	*	*	0.5	0.9
Region								
Border	1.6	2.0	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.6	2.3	3.4
Midland	1.3	1.6	*	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.9	2.7
West	1.6	1.3	0.3	*	0.5	0.6	2.4	1.9
Dublin	6.3	7.0	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.8	8.8	10.0
Mid-East	1.9	2.7	*	0.3	0.5	*	2.5	3.3
Mid-West	1.8	2.3	*	0.3	0.4	0.5	2.3	3.1
South-East	2.0	2.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	2.9	3.3
South-West	2.5	2.9	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.9	3.2	4.3
Number of children								
1	7.8	9.5	1.6	2.8	2.1	2.8	11.5	15.1
2	6.8	6.8	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.2	9.3	10.1
3	2.9	3.3	0.4	*	0.4	0.6	3.7	4.1
4+	1.5	2.3	*	*	*	*	1.8	2.6
Family Structure								
Pre-school children only	10.3	11.1	1.8	3.0	2.4	3.4	14.5	17.5
Both	8.7	10.8	1.1	1.1	2.0	2.4	11.8	14.4

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¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² Includes categories 'Paid relative', 'Paid carer', 'Creche/Montessori' and 'Other'.

³ In the case of lone parents, the age of the respondent is used.

⁴ See Background Notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 4b Lone parents with children classified by main type of childcare¹ arrangement used for primary school-going children, September-November 2002 and December-February 2005

	Parent/guardian		Unpaid relative		Paid childcare ²		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
Total lone parents	37.3	42.5	6.2	6.8	6.2	4.8	49.8	54.1
Age of mother/guardian³								
15-24	2.4	2.6	0.3	0.4	*	*	3.0	3.2
25-34	16.7	19.1	3.2	3.0	2.3	2.4	22.2	24.5
35-44	13.4	15.4	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.1	18.5	20.2
45+	4.8	5.3	0.3	0.7	0.9	*	6.1	6.2
PES⁴ of mother/guardian³								
At work	13.7	15.5	5.7	5.9	5.9	4.4	25.4	25.8
Unemployed	2.0	2.1	*	*	*	*	2.0	2.3
Student	0.6	1.0	0.4	0.5	*	*	1.2	1.7
Home duties	20.3	23.0	*	0.3	*	*	20.6	23.4
Retired/Other	0.7	0.9	*	*	*	*	0.7	0.9
Region								
Border	4.1	3.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	5.6	5.1
Midland	1.7	2.5	0.3	0.8	0.4	*	2.3	3.6
West	2.5	3.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	3.3	4.2
Dublin	13.0	14.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.7	17.1	18.7
Mid-East	3.4	4.2	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	4.8	5.3
Mid-West	3.5	3.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	4.7	4.5
South-East	3.7	5.0	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.5	5.0	6.4
South-West	5.5	5.0	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	6.9	6.3
Number of children								
1	17.5	18.5	3.9	4.5	3.6	2.9	25.0	25.9
2	12.7	14.9	2.1	1.7	2.1	1.4	16.9	18.0
3	5.1	5.9	*	0.4	0.4	0.4	5.8	6.8
4+	2.0	3.2	*	*	*	*	2.1	3.4
Family Structure								
Primary school-going children only	27.6	29.9	5.4	5.8	5.0	4.0	38.0	39.7
Both	9.7	12.4	0.8	1.0	1.3	0.9	11.8	14.4

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¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² Includes categories 'Paid relative', 'Paid carer', 'Creche/montessori' and 'Other'.

³ In the case of lone parents, the age of the respondent is used.

⁴ See Background Notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 5 Families mainly dependant on paid childcare^{1,2} classified by number of hours of childcare required weekly, September-November 2002 and December-February 2005

Childcare hours required per household per week	Pre-school only		Primary school-going only		Both		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
All children								
1-10 hours	1.7	1.4	6.3	6.0	1.8	1.8	9.8	9.2
11-20	4.7	6.3	7.5	7.2	4.7	4.9	16.9	18.3
21-30	6.8	7.8	3.4	2.2	3.4	5.0	13.6	15.0
31-40	8.6	8.5	1.7	1.6	3.5	2.6	13.8	12.7
41 & over	5.0	6.9	1.0	0.9	8.0	8.9	14.0	16.8
Total for all children	26.8	30.9	20.0	17.9	21.3	23.2	68.1	72.0
Pre-school children								
1-10 hours	1.7	1.4	-	-	2.3	3.0	4.0	4.4
11-20	4.7	6.3	-	-	6.8	7.1	11.5	13.4
21-30	6.8	7.8	-	-	4.2	4.9	11.0	12.7
31-40	8.6	8.5	-	-	4.8	4.9	13.5	13.4
41 & over	5.0	6.9	-	-	2.5	2.9	7.4	9.9
Total for pre-school children	26.8	30.9	-	-	20.7	22.9	47.4	53.8
Primary school-going children								
1-10 hours	-	-	6.3	6.0	5.3	5.2	11.7	11.2
11-20	-	-	7.5	7.2	6.1	5.6	13.6	12.8
21-30	-	-	3.4	2.2	1.8	2.0	5.2	4.2
31-40	-	-	1.7	1.6	1.2	0.8	2.9	2.4
41 & over	-	-	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.4	1.5	1.3
Total for primary school-going children	-	-	20.0	17.9	14.9	14.0	34.9	32.0

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² Includes categories 'Paid relative', 'Paid carer', 'Creche/montessori' and 'Other'.

Table 6a Average cost of paid childcare^{1,2} per child per hour for pre-school children, September-November 2002 and December to February 2005

	€									
	Paid relative		Paid carer		Creche/montessori		Other		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
All families	2.69	3.05	3.22	4.06	3.64	4.82	2.64	3.41	3.26	4.15
Region										
Border	2.92	3.60	3.13	3.76	2.56	3.57	*	*	2.87	3.65
Midland	2.48	3.79	3.29	4.43	3.75	5.07	*	3.09	3.26	4.31
West	2.43	2.49	2.39	3.62	3.50	3.59	*	*	2.71	3.50
Dublin	3.34	3.39	4.49	4.94	4.18	5.85	*	3.44	4.11	5.15
Mid-East	2.67	3.24	3.43	4.17	3.68	4.43	*	*	3.28	4.24
Mid-West	*	2.51	2.41	3.59	2.49	3.77	*	*	2.37	3.47
South-East	2.14	2.12	2.75	4.11	2.53	4.14	*	*	2.59	3.59
South-West	2.74	2.92	3.44	3.89	3.25	4.08	2.35	2.90	3.21	3.70
Hours of paid childcare per week										
1-10 hours	*	*	6.22	5.83	4.70	7.71	2.72	4.29	4.69	6.03
11-20	3.59	3.72	4.04	5.12	3.24	4.99	2.57	2.87	3.52	4.54
21-30	2.77	3.31	3.32	4.42	4.22	4.71	*	*	3.48	4.31
31-40	2.09	2.70	2.60	3.62	3.39	4.41	*	*	2.81	3.80
41 & over	1.94	2.12	2.29	2.93	3.42	4.06	*	*	2.63	3.20

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² Includes categories 'Paid relative', 'Paid carer', 'Creche/montessori' and 'Other'.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 6b Average cost of paid childcare^{1,2} per child per hour for primary school-going children, September-November 2002 and December-February 2005

	Paid relative		Paid carer		Creche/montessori		Other		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
All families	3.59	4.91	5.16	6.02	5.19	6.05	4.04	4.90	4.73	5.68
Region										
Border	3.67	4.80	5.00	5.22	4.27	*	*	*	4.47	4.61
Midland	3.72	*	5.01	5.32	*	*	*	*	4.71	4.74
West	4.30	4.10	4.58	4.61	*	*	*	*	4.33	4.43
Dublin	3.73	5.81	6.08	7.41	6.62	6.86	4.07	5.29	5.50	6.71
Mid-East	3.85	5.87	6.01	6.64	3.71	5.84	*	*	4.99	6.31
Mid-West	3.44	4.53	3.83	4.97	*	*	*	*	3.72	5.17
South-East	3.21	3.25	4.31	6.33	*	*	*	*	3.86	5.22
South-West	2.65	4.63	5.09	5.65	*	*	*	*	4.69	5.44
Hours of paid childcare per week										
1-10 hours	5.75	7.21	7.03	8.05	8.72	9.19	4.45	5.18	6.74	7.65
11-20	3.18	4.54	4.93	5.64	4.50	5.47	3.83	4.97	4.42	5.33
21-30	2.68	3.25	3.37	4.79	3.20	4.04	*	*	3.09	4.27
31-40	2.41	2.65	3.02	3.84	*	*	*	*	3.03	3.57
41 & over	1.50	2.65	2.32	3.03	*	*	*	*	2.15	2.94

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² Includes categories 'Paid relative', 'Paid carer', 'Creche/montessori' and 'Other'.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 7 Average cost of paid childcare^{1,2} per household per week for pre-school or primary school-going children, September-November 2002 and December to February 2005

	Pre-school only		Primary school-going only		Both		Total	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
All families	106.37	131.35	75.49	86.82	107.10	132.48	97.53	120.64
Region								
Border	80.67	102.67	69.26	65.41	89.57	121.50	79.82	99.94
Midland	96.25	143.00	67.47	90.30	97.01	114.81	87.70	119.21
West	95.46	118.81	63.19	69.05	91.53	117.74	84.91	106.72
Dublin	132.52	160.34	91.81	100.37	128.15	162.39	119.30	145.23
Mid-East	121.34	134.90	73.23	86.13	129.66	139.43	107.41	123.53
Mid-West	95.61	120.13	67.61	80.53	85.38	122.09	84.78	110.51
South-East	85.83	116.45	65.91	78.31	88.90	124.28	81.09	106.70
South-West	92.41	114.12	73.58	90.85	99.28	111.91	89.70	108.81
Hours of paid childcare per week								
1-10 hours	45.02	63.41	53.17	54.15	35.90	36.47	48.58	52.02
11-20	68.37	82.13	73.34	89.11	57.85	76.00	67.69	83.22
21-30	94.95	116.42	85.93	102.11	99.77	124.15	93.90	116.89
31-40	111.70	152.73	115.31	142.72	105.90	122.48	110.68	145.33
41 & over	169.23	179.78	129.05	151.48	155.68	190.73	158.53	184.08

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² Includes categories 'Paid relative', 'Paid carer', 'Creche/montessori' and 'Other'.

Background Notes

Reference period	Questions on childcare were included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from December 2004 to February 2005. The data from 2002 is taken from an earlier module on childcare asked from September to November 2002. Data for 2002 was revised in line with 2005 grossing methodology to ensure direct comparisons between the two years.
Purpose of survey	While the primary purpose of the QNHS is to collect information on employment and unemployment, it also includes modules on social topics of interest.
Questionnaire	The childcare module was asked of all households in which there were found to be primary school-going children or younger. One member of each household was asked directly about the details of their childcare arrangements for their primary school-going and/or pre-school children. The questions asked included, the main source of childcare, the cost of childcare and the hours involved.

The questions asked in order to determine the types of childcare arrangements availed of are outlined below. The list of response options is the same for both questions. Similar questions were also asked in relation to younger non-school-going children, with identical response options. Also included below are the categories in which the responses were grouped for analysis.

Respondents were asked to indicate the main type of childcare for their pre-school and school-going child(ren). **(Multiple responses not allowed)**

Categories	Responses
Parent or guardian	Children minded at home by me Children minded at home by partner
Unpaid relative	Unpaid relative (or family friend) in your own home Unpaid relative (or family friend) in his/her own home
Paid relative	Paid relative (or family friend) in your own home Paid relative (or family friend) in his/her own home
Paid carer	Paid childminder in your own home Paid childminder in his/her own home Au Pair/ Nanny
Crèche or montessori	Work-based crèche Naíonra Crèche or Nursery Montessori school Playgroup, pre-school or sessional childcare
Other	Homework club After-school activity-based facility Special needs facility Activity Camps (Sports, recreation, arts & craft etc.) Other

Principal Economic Status Classification

The Principal Economic Status (PES) classification used in these results 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

Childcare

Childcare was defined as types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to the household).

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 City Galway County Mayo Roscommon

Southern and Eastern NUTS2 Region

Dublin	Dublin City Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Fingal South Dublin
Mid-East	Kildare Meath Wicklow
Mid-West	Clare Limerick City Limerick County North Tipperary
South-East	Carlow Kilkenny South Tipperary Waterford City Waterford County Wexford
South-West	Cork City Cork County Kerry

QHNS Social Modules

While the main purpose of the QNHS is the production of quarterly labour force estimates, there is also a provision for the collection of data on social topics through the inclusion of special survey modules. The selection of the major national modules undertaken to date has been largely based on the results of a canvas of users (over 100 organisations) that was conducted by the CSO in 1996 and most recently 2002. The results of the canvas are presented to the National Statistics Board and they are asked to indicate their priorities for the years ahead.

The schedule for social modules in any given year is based on the following structure:

Quarter 1 Annual modules update (Disability, Pensions, Childcare, Accidents and Illness)

Quarter 2 EU module (always covered under EU legislation)

Quarter 3 National module
Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Survey

Quarter 4 National module

The table below outlines the social modules published to date in the QNHS

Reference Quarter	Social Module
Q3 2005	ICT household survey
Q2 2005	Educational attainment
Q1 2005	Childcare
Q4 2004	Equality
Q3 2004	ICT household survey
Q2 2004	Work organisation and working time
Q2 2004	Union membership
Q4 2003	Crime and victimisation
Q3 2003	Housing
Q3 2003	ICT household survey
Q2 2003	Life long learning
Q4 2002	Childcare
Q3 2002	Teleworking
Q3 2002	Voter registration and participation
Q2 2002	Disability in the labour force (Annual update Q1 2004)
Q1 2002	Pension provision (Annual update Q1 2004 and Q1 2005)
Q3 2001	Health
Q2 2001	Length and pattern of working time
Q4 2000	Home computing
Q2 2000	Transition from school to working life
Q1 2000	Travel to work
Q1 1999	Recycling and energy conservation
Q4 1998	Crime and victimisation
Q3 1998	Home computing
Q3 1998	Housing and households

Social modules yet to be published:

Reference Quarter	Social Module
Q3 2004	Travel to work
Q1 2005	Annual update module
Q2 2005	Reconciliation between work and family life
Q3 2005	Recycling and energy
Q4 2005	Pension provision
Q1 2006	Annual update module
Q2 2006	Transition from work into retirement
Q3 2006	ICT household survey
Q3 2006	Social capital and sport
Q4 2006	Crime and victimisation