

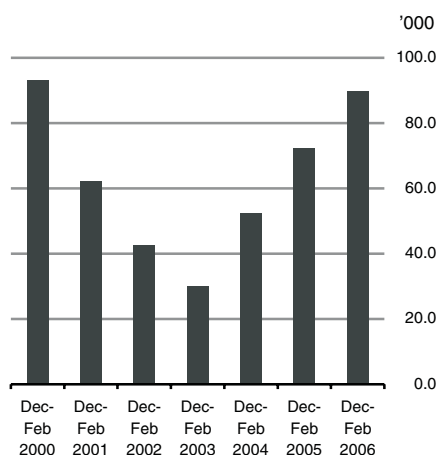


Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

31 May 2006

Quarterly National Household Survey Quarter 1 2006

**Annual Increase in Employment in
the First Quarters 2000 to 2006**



ILO Labour Force

	In Employment	Unemployed	Labour Force
	'000		
Dec-Feb 2005	1,908.3	82.1	1,990.5
Mar-May 2005	1,929.2	85.6	2,014.8
Jun-Aug 2005	1,989.8	96.7	2,086.5
Sep-Nov 2005	1,980.6	91.3	2,071.9
Dec-Feb 2006	1,998.1	88.2	2,086.3
<i>Change in quarter</i>	<i>+17.5</i>	<i>-3.1</i>	<i>+14.4</i>
<i>Change in year</i>	<i>+89.8</i>	<i>+6.1</i>	<i>+95.8</i>

Employment increases by almost 90,000

The number of persons in employment grew by 89,800 or 4.7% in the year to reach 1,998,100 in the first quarter of 2006. This compares with an annual increase of 4.6% in the previous quarter and 3.9% in the first quarter of 2005. The number of men in employment increased over the year by 51,500 (+4.7%) while the number of females increased by 38,200 (+4.7%). Persons in full-time employment were up by 73,700 and accounted for just over 82% of the overall annual change. *See table 1 and graph opposite.*

There were 88,200 persons unemployed in the first quarter of 2006, representing an increase of 6,100 in the year. Increases in the numbers of unemployed females accounted for almost 80% of the total annual increase. The number of persons in short-term unemployment increased by 7,600 to 61,700 whereas the long-term unemployed fell by 1,600 to 26,200. *See tables 1, 17 & 18.*

Non-Irish nationals are tentatively estimated to have accounted for almost 50,000 of the annual increase in the numbers in employment and for close to 5,000 of the increase in the numbers unemployed. *See table A1 in the annex.*

When seasonal factors are taken into account the number of persons in employment increased by over 25,000 in the quarter while the numbers unemployed showed a slight decrease of 200. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged over the quarter at 4.4%, but showed an increase from the 4.2% recorded in the first quarter of 2005. *See table 3.*

The total number in the labour force now stands at 2,086,300 and accounts for 62.2% of all persons aged 15 and over compared with 61.0% in the first quarter of 2005. The female participation rate rose from 50.9% to 52.2% while that for males increased from 71.4% to 72.5%. *See table 1.*

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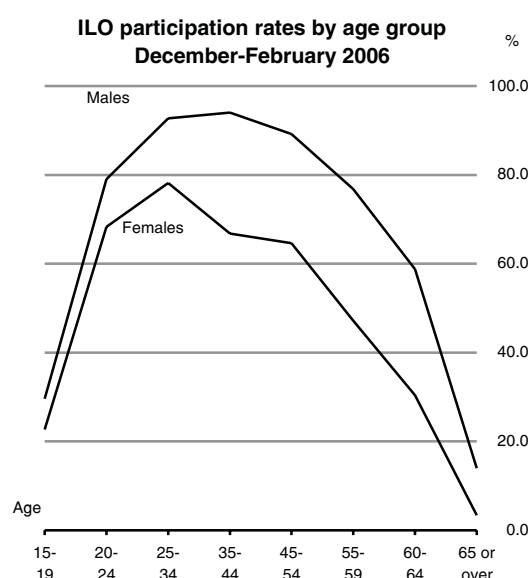
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The latest available figures for all 25 EU member states, which are for the second quarter of 2005, show that between the second quarters of 2004 and 2005 Ireland's employment level grew by 5.1% and its labour force by 4.9%. The comparable figures for the EU-25 countries were 1.6% and 1.4% respectively. See table 25.

Migration and increased participation fuel labour force growth

Demographic factors, such as the increase in the population of working age and changes in its age structure, added an estimated 64,000 to the labour force over the year. Net inward migration is estimated to have accounted for over 80% of this demographic increase. The demographic factor was particularly evident in the case of the 25-34 age group where a rise in the labour force of over 34,000 was recorded in the year.



Increased labour force participation accounted for the balance of 32,000 in the annual labour force growth. All age groups recorded increases in participation rates while female participation rates in particular continued to rise sharply. There was an increase of over 25,000 in the number of married women in the labour force with their participation rate rising from 50.7% to 52.4% between the first quarters of 2005 and 2006. See tables 1, 9, 15 and graph opposite.

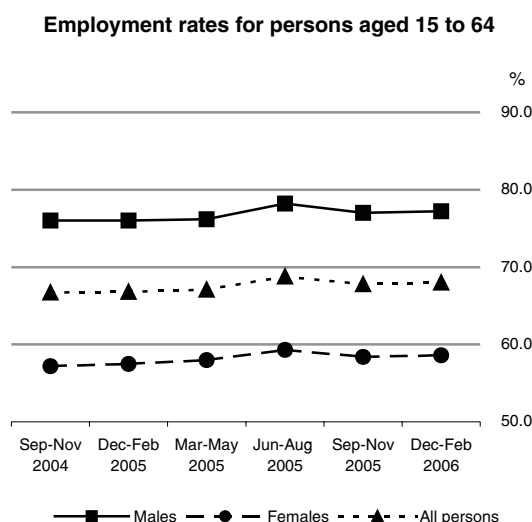
The broadest survey-based labour supply indicator, S3, which includes persons outside the labour force who show some interest in obtaining work as well as the unemployed, increased slightly from 7.5% in the first quarter of 2005 to 7.6% in the first quarter of 2006. See table 20.

Employment increases in most sectors

Employment in the *Construction* (+20,700), *Wholesale & retail trade* (+18,500) and *Financial and other business services* (+16,300) sectors continued to grow strongly in the year to the first quarter of 2006. Almost 30% of the year on year growth in the *Wholesale & retail trade* sector can be attributed to an increase in the numbers working part-time. All other areas in the services sector also recorded employment growth over the year. In contrast, there was a fall of 12,300 in the numbers employed in the *Other production industries* sector. See table 2b.

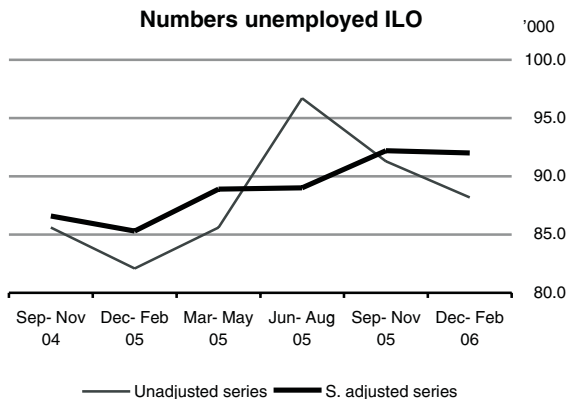
All occupational categories with the exception of *Managers and administrators*, which showed a fall of 8,200, increased in the year. The largest increases were in *Professional* (+26,100), *Sales* (+17,800), *Other* (+14,500) and *Personal and protective service* (+14,400) occupations. See table 4.

There were 1,667,900 employees in the first quarter of 2006, an annual increase of 92,800. This comprised an increase of 53,700 males and 39,100 females. The number of self-employed persons decreased by 700 to 318,400 in the year and the number of persons assisting relatives also decreased by 2,400 to 11,800. See table 6.



Employment rates continue to rise

The employment rate for persons aged 15-64 continued to rise in the year to the first quarter of 2006 from 66.8% to 68.0%. The rates for males and females both increased over the year, with the male rate rising from 76.0% to 77.2% and the female rate rising from 57.5% to 58.6%. Strong employment rate growth was particularly evident for both males and females aged 55 and over. From an age perspective the highest employment rate, 81.7%, relates to the 25-34 age category and in absolute terms over 40% of the annual growth in the numbers in employment can be attributed this group. See tables 11, 12 and graph opposite.



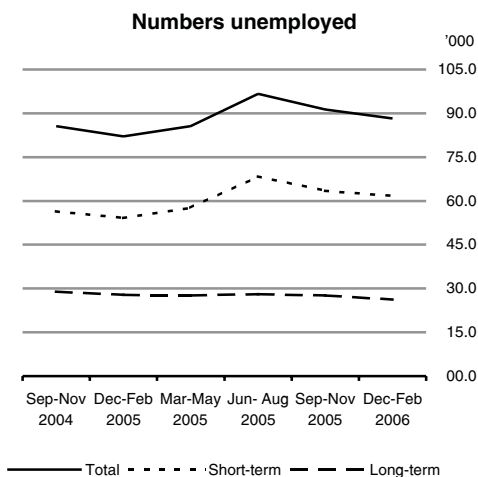
The number of persons in part-time employment increased by 16,000 (+4.9%) in the year to the first quarter of 2006. The rise in part-time employment was split fairly evenly between males (+7,100) and females (+8,900). The sectors that showed the largest annual increases were *Wholesale and retail trade* (+5,500) and *Education* (+2,900).

The average working week in the first quarter of 2006 was 36.6 hours compared with 36.9 hours in the same quarter last year. See table 5.

Increase in numbers unemployed

There were 52,800 males and 35,400 females unemployed in the first quarter of 2006, representing annual increases of 1,300 and 4,800 for males and females respectively. The largest annual increase in the numbers unemployed was concentrated in the 25-34 year age group where the numbers increased by 4,500 to 27,700. When compared to last quarter the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.4%. See tables 1, 3, 13 and graph opposite.

Long-term unemployment is estimated to have decreased over the year by 1,600 while short-term unemployment increased by 7,600 over the same period. Those aged 15-24 (-1,200) showed the largest decrease in long term unemployment. The largest increase in short-term unemployment was recorded for those aged 25-44 (+4,400). The long-term unemployment rate decreased from 1.4% a year ago to 1.3% this quarter. See tables 16, 17, 18 and graph opposite.



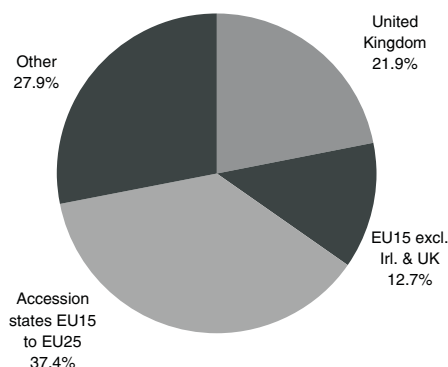
Over 74,000 from the new EU Member States in the labour force

Tentative estimates of the labour force status of Non-Irish nationals are presented in the Annex. There was an estimated 271,300 Foreign nationals aged 15 years of age and over in the State in the first quarter of 2006. Just over 184,000 were in employment while almost 14,000 were unemployed according to the ILO criteria. Nationals of the new EU Accession states were the fastest growing category with the numbers in the labour force increasing from 36,800 in the first quarter of 2005 to just over 74,000 in the most recent quarter. See table A1 in the annex.

In the first quarter of 2006 Non-Irish nationals accounted for 23.7% of workers in *Hotels & restaurants*, and around 10% of *Construction, Financial and other business services*, and *Other production industries* sectors. The greatest increase in Non-Irish national workers was in the *Financial and other business services* sector where the numbers employed increased by almost 10,000 over the year. The *Other production industries* sector recorded an annual increase of 6,900 for Foreign nationals despite the overall decline in employment in this sector. See table A2 in the annex.

Foreign nationals accounted for 5,300 of the overall increase of 6,100 in the numbers unemployed between the first quarters of 2005 and 2006. See table A2 in the annex.

Non-Irish nationals in the Labour Force, December-February 2006



A third of those aged 15-64 in employment have a third level qualification

Estimates of educational attainment for persons aged 15-64 are included in a new table. These show that there were 649,200 (33.1%) persons in employment who had a third level qualification in the first quarter of 2006. This compares to a rate of 31% recorded one year previously. The rates for males and females in the most recent quarter were 28% (314,100) and 40% (335,000) respectively. See table 23.

Regional comparisons

Employment grew by 22,200 (+4.5%) in the Border, Midland and Western region and by 67,600 (+4.8%) in the Southern and Eastern region in the year to the first quarter of 2006. Most of the annual rise in unemployment occurred in the Southern and Eastern region (+5,100). *See table 7a.*

The participation rate in the Southern and Eastern region increased from 61.6% to 63.0% between the first quarters of 2005 and 2006 while the rate in the Border, Midland and Western region increased more moderately from 59.2% to 60.1% over the same period.

At NUTS3 level employment grew in all regions with the Mid-West (+6.5%) and the West (+4.9%) showing the highest employment growth rates over the year. There was an annual increase of over 27,000 (+4.8%) in the numbers in employment in the Dublin region. All regional data are on the basis of the location of the respondent's usual residence. *See table 7b.*

Principal Economic Status

The number of persons describing their usual situation as "at work" grew by 89,900 in the year to 1,925,600. This comprised an increase of 51,100 males and 38,800 females. This compares to an increase of 68,900 in the year to the first quarter of 2005. Meanwhile, the number describing themselves as "unemployed" rose by 6,300 in the year to 116,400. The numbers describing themselves as on "home duties" decreased by almost 12,000 to 540,000 in the year. *See table 21.*

The number of students decreased (-7,900) in the year to 366,200. In the first quarter of 2006, 16.4% of students had a job compared to 16.3% for the same quarter last year and this represented a decrease of 900 in the number of students in employment. *See table 22.*

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Table 1 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex and ILO Economic Status

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ILO Economic Status	Dec- Feb 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06
Males							
In labour force	1,118.4	1,145.2	1,149.8	1,163.3	1,204.3	1,194.8	1,202.6
In employment:	1,065.8	1,092.4	1,098.3	1,110.1	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8
full-time	997.0	1,027.7	1,028.5	1,039.4	1,071.0	1,066.0	1,073.0
part-time:	68.8	64.7	69.8	70.7	75.3	74.6	76.9
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed¹</i>	66.9	63.6	68.2	68.7	73.6	72.3	75.0
<i>part-time, underemployed¹</i>	1.9	1.0	1.6	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.9
Unemployed:	52.6	52.8	51.5	53.2	58.0	54.3	52.8
seeking full-time work	50.1	50.8	48.9	50.5	54.3	50.7	50.5
seeking part-time work	2.5	2.0	2.6	2.7	3.6	3.5	2.3
Not in labour force	454.1	456.4	461.5	457.6	428.7	454.0	456.5
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	7.8	7.9	7.3	5.2	6.9	5.3	6.2
Others	446.2	448.5	454.2	452.3	421.8	448.6	450.3
Total males aged 15 or over	1,572.4	1,601.6	1,611.3	1,620.9	1,633.0	1,648.8	1,659.1
Unemployment rate %	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.4
Participation rate %	71.1	71.5	71.4	71.8	73.7	72.5	72.5
Females							
In labour force	801.1	834.5	840.7	851.5	882.2	877.1	883.8
In employment:	770.1	801.7	810.1	819.1	843.5	840.1	848.3
full-time	530.2	549.8	552.5	558.1	576.0	573.9	581.8
part-time:	240.0	251.9	257.6	261.0	267.5	266.2	266.5
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed¹</i>	238.1	250.0	256.1	259.0	265.7	264.1	264.2
<i>part-time, underemployed¹</i>	1.9	1.9	1.4	2.1	1.8	2.1	2.3
Unemployed:	31.0	32.8	30.6	32.4	38.8	37.0	35.4
seeking full-time work	20.7	21.4	20.2	20.4	25.9	23.5	22.3
seeking part-time work	10.3	11.4	10.4	12.0	12.9	13.5	13.2
Not in labour force	818.5	809.6	810.9	805.0	786.4	806.2	809.4
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	4.4	3.4	4.8	3.9	6.7	4.5	3.9
Others	814.1	806.3	806.2	801.2	779.6	801.7	805.5
Total females aged 15 or over	1,619.6	1,644.1	1,651.7	1,656.6	1,668.6	1,683.3	1,693.1
Unemployment rate %	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.4	4.2	4.0
Participation rate %	49.5	50.8	50.9	51.4	52.9	52.1	52.2
All persons							
In labour force	1,919.5	1,979.7	1,990.5	2,014.8	2,086.5	2,071.9	2,086.3
In employment:	1,835.9	1,894.1	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1
full-time	1,527.1	1,577.5	1,581.0	1,597.5	1,647.0	1,639.8	1,654.7
part-time:	308.8	316.5	327.4	331.7	342.8	340.8	343.4
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed¹</i>	305.0	313.6	324.3	327.7	339.3	336.4	339.2
<i>part-time, underemployed¹</i>	3.8	2.9	3.0	4.0	3.5	4.4	4.2
Unemployed:	83.6	85.6	82.1	85.6	96.7	91.3	88.2
seeking full-time work	70.8	72.2	69.1	71.0	80.2	74.2	72.7
seeking part-time work	12.8	13.4	13.0	14.7	16.5	17.0	15.5
Not in labour force	1,272.5	1,266.0	1,272.5	1,262.6	1,215.1	1,260.2	1,265.9
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	12.2	11.3	12.1	9.1	13.6	9.8	10.1
Others	1,260.3	1,254.8	1,260.4	1,253.5	1,201.5	1,250.3	1,255.8
Total persons aged 15 or over	3,192.0	3,245.7	3,262.9	3,277.4	3,301.6	3,332.1	3,352.2
Unemployment rate %	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.4	4.2
Participation rate %	60.1	61.0	61.0	61.5	63.2	62.2	62.2

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 2a Persons aged 15 years and over in employment (ILO) classified by sex and Broad NACE Economic Sector

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Broad economic sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Dec- Feb 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06
Males							
A-B Agriculture	107.6	102.3	101.5	102.6	109.0	104.9	104.8
C-F Industry	404.7	429.6	431.8	436.1	447.0	446.0	443.7
G-Q Services	553.4	560.6	565.0	571.3	590.3	589.6	601.4
Females							
A-B Agriculture	11.3	10.2	11.0	11.1	10.6	10.4	10.7
C-F Industry	95.1	98.9	98.6	100.5	99.6	95.4	95.1
G-Q Services	663.8	692.6	700.5	707.6	733.2	734.4	742.5
All persons							
A-B Agriculture	118.9	112.5	112.5	113.7	119.6	115.3	115.5
C-F Industry	499.8	528.5	530.4	536.6	546.7	541.3	538.8
G-Q Services	1,217.2	1,253.2	1,265.4	1,278.9	1,323.5	1,324.0	1,343.8
Total persons	1,835.9	1,894.1	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1

Table 2b Persons aged 15 years and over in employment (ILO) classified by sex and NACE Economic Sector

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Economic sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Dec- Feb 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06
Males							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	107.6	102.3	101.5	102.6	109.0	104.9	104.8
C-E Other production industries	211.8	212.2	210.0	205.9	207.2	205.4	202.5
F Construction	192.9	217.4	221.8	230.2	239.8	240.6	241.1
G Wholesale and retail trade	133.2	134.6	134.3	133.2	142.1	141.5	143.5
H Hotels and restaurants	49.7	45.7	48.2	45.7	50.5	48.0	49.1
I Transport, storage and communication	84.7	90.5	90.4	91.1	91.2	91.9	91.3
J-K Financial and other business services	116.4	123.0	123.7	129.5	130.4	130.5	136.4
L Public administration and defence	48.7	46.7	48.5	48.8	50.0	50.2	51.3
M Education	34.6	35.0	34.6	35.8	35.0	36.3	37.6
N Health	34.6	33.4	32.9	33.5	32.8	32.5	33.7
O-Q Other services	51.6	51.6	52.4	53.7	58.2	58.7	58.5
Total males	1,065.8	1,092.4	1,098.3	1,110.1	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8
Females							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	11.3	10.2	11.0	11.1	10.6	10.4	10.7
C-E Other production industries	85.6	88.9	87.2	88.3	87.4	82.8	82.5
F Construction	9.4	10.0	11.4	12.2	12.2	12.5	12.7
G Wholesale and retail trade	130.2	130.9	133.3	133.7	144.5	143.5	142.6
H Hotels and restaurants	63.4	66.9	64.0	65.3	69.8	67.5	64.0
I Transport, storage and communication	28.7	25.2	25.3	27.1	27.3	26.5	29.2
J-K Financial and other business services	118.0	124.7	129.2	127.6	132.9	132.4	132.8
L Public administration and defence	41.2	47.6	47.9	49.4	51.0	50.6	51.8
M Education	84.9	83.5	85.2	87.3	84.8	91.5	95.3
N Health	142.6	149.1	152.6	154.5	158.7	159.0	162.5
O-Q Other services	54.8	64.7	63.0	62.7	64.2	63.4	64.2
Total females	770.1	801.7	810.1	819.1	843.5	840.1	848.3
All persons							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	118.9	112.5	112.5	113.7	119.6	115.3	115.5
C-E Other production industries	297.4	301.1	297.3	294.2	294.6	288.2	285.0
F Construction	202.3	227.4	233.1	242.4	252.1	253.2	253.8
G Wholesale and retail trade	263.4	265.4	267.6	266.9	286.6	285.0	286.1
H Hotels and restaurants	113.1	112.6	112.3	111.0	120.4	115.5	113.1
I Transport, storage and communication	113.4	115.7	115.7	118.2	118.5	118.3	120.5
J-K Financial and other business services	234.4	247.7	252.9	257.1	263.3	263.0	269.2
L Public administration and defence	89.9	94.4	96.4	98.2	101.0	100.7	103.1
M Education	119.4	118.5	119.8	123.1	119.8	127.9	132.8
N Health	177.2	182.5	185.5	188.0	191.5	191.5	196.3
O-Q Other services	106.4	116.3	115.4	116.4	122.4	122.1	122.8
Total persons	1,835.9	1,894.1	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1

**Table 3 Seasonally Adjusted Series¹ of persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex,
ILO Economic Status and NACE Economic Sector**

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ILO Economic Status/ NACE Economic Sector	Dec- Feb 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06
Males							
In labour force	1,126.3	1,147.0	1,157.5	1,172.5	1,185.6	1,196.9	1,210.4
In employment:	1,072.9	1,093.8	1,104.8	1,117.8	1,130.8	1,142.4	1,155.9
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	109.0	102.2	102.9	104.3	105.9	105.0	106.2
C-E Other production industries	212.0	212.3	210.0	207.7	205.7	205.2	202.4
F Construction	194.9	216.2	224.0	232.7	236.1	239.5	243.5
G Wholesale and retail trade	133.3	134.8	134.5	135.5	139.3	141.7	143.8
H Hotels and restaurants	50.1	46.8	48.5	45.7	49.0	49.3	49.4
I Transport, storage and communication	85.3	90.2	91.1	91.1	90.9	91.6	91.9
J-K Financial and other business services	117.9	124.0	125.1	128.2	129.3	131.6	137.9
L Public administration and defence	49.0	47.4	48.7	48.7	49.2	50.9	51.5
M Education	34.3	34.7	34.3	36.2	35.3	36.0	37.3
N Health	34.7	33.3	32.9	33.3	33.0	32.7	33.6
O-Q Other services	51.8	51.4	52.5	54.4	57.6	58.4	58.7
Unemployed	54.0	53.8	53.0	54.2	54.4	55.3	54.6
Unemployment rate %	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5
Participation rate %	71.7	71.7	71.9	72.3	72.5	72.7	73.0
Females							
In labour force	806.6	836.6	845.9	859.4	867.0	878.8	888.9
In employment:	774.2	803.8	813.5	824.6	832.5	841.8	851.4
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	11.4	10.6	11.1	10.8	10.4	10.8	10.8
C-E Other production industries	87.1	90.0	88.8	88.1	84.9	84.0	84.1
F Construction	9.5	10.2	11.5	12.0	12.0	12.9	12.8
G Wholesale and retail trade	130.4	132.1	133.5	136.0	140.7	144.6	142.9
H Hotels and restaurants	65.8	66.2	66.3	67.8	65.9	66.5	66.3
I Transport, storage and communication	28.8	25.0	25.3	27.5	27.2	26.3	29.2
J-K Financial and other business services	117.6	124.8	128.4	129.5	131.8	132.4	131.8
L Public administration and defence	41.8	47.7	48.5	49.4	50.3	50.7	52.4
M Education	83.1	82.8	83.3	85.5	89.5	90.7	93.1
N Health	142.5	149.8	152.4	155.2	157.5	159.7	162.3
O-Q Other services	55.8	64.3	64.0	63.4	63.0	63.0	65.2
Unemployed	32.6	32.8	32.4	34.7	34.6	36.9	37.7
Unemployment rate %	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2
Participation rate %	49.9	51.0	51.3	51.8	52.0	52.3	52.6
All persons							
In labour force	1,933.1	1,982.6	2,003.6	2,032.0	2,053.2	2,074.7	2,099.5
In employment:	1,847.8	1,896.5	1,919.1	1,942.7	1,963.2	1,983.0	2,008.4
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	120.4	112.6	113.9	115.2	116.4	115.7	116.8
C-E Other production industries	299.8	302.5	299.6	295.4	290.1	289.4	287.2
F Construction	204.0	226.3	235.0	245.8	247.9	252.1	255.8
G Wholesale and retail trade	263.9	266.6	268.2	271.3	280.4	286.0	286.8
H Hotels and restaurants	115.1	112.8	114.1	114.7	114.8	115.6	114.9
I Transport, storage and communication	114.2	115.6	116.3	118.3	117.9	118.3	121.1
J-K Financial and other business services	235.0	248.8	253.2	257.5	261.5	264.2	269.2
L Public administration and defence	90.6	95.3	97.0	98.4	99.4	101.6	103.6
M Education	117.6	117.5	117.8	121.6	124.5	126.9	130.5
N Health	177.2	183.2	185.2	188.4	190.6	192.4	195.9
O-Q Other services	107.9	115.5	116.9	117.7	120.4	121.2	124.3
Unemployed	86.5	86.6	85.3	88.9	89.0	92.2	92.0
Unemployment rate %	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4
Participation rate %	60.6	61.2	61.5	61.9	62.1	62.4	62.7

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 4 Persons aged 15 years and over in employment (ILO) classified by sex and occupation

'000

Broad occupational group	Dec- Feb 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06
Males							
1. Managers and administrators	230.2	221.8	220.7	218.6	216.7	217.3	213.8
2. Professional	109.0	110.2	108.3	112.5	109.5	114.9	118.5
3. Associate professional and technical	72.1	67.9	68.5	70.9	71.0	69.9	74.8
4. Clerical and secretarial	50.9	58.8	58.1	58.7	61.4	58.4	59.7
5. Craft and related	232.4	251.5	256.5	260.1	267.1	269.6	267.4
6. Personal and protective service	74.9	73.2	75.3	73.4	77.9	76.9	82.0
7. Sales	58.8	59.2	61.8	63.0	66.8	68.5	69.9
8. Plant and machine operatives	131.6	137.7	140.0	138.0	143.3	144.4	142.6
9. Other	105.8	112.1	109.0	114.9	132.7	120.7	121.1
Total males	1,065.8	1,092.4	1,098.3	1,110.1	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8
Females							
1. Managers and administrators	93.5	91.0	96.4	98.1	96.3	95.5	95.1
2. Professional	99.6	101.7	101.5	106.1	103.4	109.8	117.5
3. Associate professional and technical	93.4	98.5	97.8	100.5	100.0	97.3	100.3
4. Clerical and secretarial	168.0	174.7	181.1	177.7	187.5	184.4	186.1
5. Craft and related	11.9	11.2	12.3	11.7	12.6	11.5	10.4
6. Personal and protective service	114.3	122.6	124.0	125.0	133.9	135.0	131.7
7. Sales	96.0	99.5	101.0	101.4	109.5	108.7	110.8
8. Plant and machine operatives	30.2	31.6	29.7	29.7	28.8	27.7	27.8
9. Other	63.2	70.8	66.2	68.9	71.5	70.2	68.7
Total females	770.1	801.7	810.1	819.1	843.5	840.1	848.3
All persons							
1. Managers and administrators	323.7	312.8	317.2	316.7	313.0	312.8	309.0
2. Professional	208.5	211.9	209.9	218.6	213.0	224.7	236.0
3. Associate professional and technical	165.6	166.4	166.3	171.5	170.9	167.2	175.2
4. Clerical and secretarial	218.9	233.5	239.2	236.3	248.8	242.8	245.8
5. Craft and related	244.3	262.8	268.8	271.9	279.7	281.1	277.8
6. Personal and protective service	189.3	195.9	199.3	198.4	211.8	211.9	213.7
7. Sales	154.9	158.7	162.8	164.4	176.3	177.2	180.6
8. Plant and machine operatives	161.8	169.2	169.7	167.7	172.0	172.1	170.4
9. Other	168.9	182.9	175.3	183.7	204.2	190.9	189.8
Total persons	1,835.9	1,894.1	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1

Table 5 Persons aged 15 years and over in employment (ILO) classified by sex and usual hours of work

'000

Usual hours per week	Dec- Feb 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06
Males							
1-9 hours	8.8	6.4	8.6	7.8	4.8	7.4	8.4
10-19	19.4	15.7	18.4	19.1	16.1	19.8	23.1
20-29	36.4	36.6	37.7	39.4	42.2	40.6	42.5
30-34	17.3	18.6	18.1	19.1	21.6	21.3	20.5
35-39	370.3	392.4	391.3	394.8	405.0	407.2	412.9
40-44	250.1	253.6	253.5	256.7	275.2	265.4	273.1
45 & over	202.3	195.7	196.0	203.1	213.2	209.7	200.0
Variable hours ¹	161.2	173.5	174.7	170.0	168.0	169.2	169.2
Total males	1,065.8	1,092.4	1,098.3	1,110.1	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>41.0</i>	<i>41.1</i>	<i>41.4</i>	<i>41.0</i>	<i>40.6</i>
Females							
1-9 hours	21.9	20.5	23.6	24.0	18.9	25.0	25.2
10-19	74.4	79.7	81.0	85.7	80.3	84.9	85.1
20-29	148.7	156.4	159.2	159.8	170.7	164.9	169.0
30-34	48.6	48.8	49.1	51.9	55.9	56.9	56.6
35-39	300.9	313.7	309.9	308.0	324.7	322.0	321.4
40-44	98.0	101.8	104.2	107.0	109.2	109.2	111.0
45 & over	34.3	31.2	32.2	33.4	34.5	32.4	32.6
Variable hours ¹	43.3	49.6	50.9	49.3	49.3	44.8	47.4
Total females	770.1	801.7	810.1	819.1	843.5	840.1	848.3
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>32.0</i>	<i>32.0</i>	<i>31.8</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>31.7</i>
All persons							
1-9 hours	30.7	27.0	32.2	31.8	23.8	32.4	33.6
10-19	93.7	95.4	99.4	104.8	96.4	104.6	108.2
20-29	185.2	193.0	196.9	199.2	212.9	205.4	211.4
30-34	66.0	67.3	67.2	71.0	77.6	78.3	77.2
35-39	671.2	706.1	701.2	702.8	729.7	729.2	734.3
40-44	348.1	355.3	357.7	363.7	384.4	374.6	384.1
45 & over	236.6	226.9	228.2	236.5	247.7	242.1	232.6
Variable hours ¹	204.5	223.1	225.6	219.4	217.3	214.0	216.7
Total persons	1,835.9	1,894.1	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>37.1</i>	<i>37.1</i>	<i>36.9</i>	<i>36.9</i>	<i>37.2</i>	<i>36.9</i>	<i>36.6</i>

¹ Includes 'not stated'.

Table 6 Persons aged 15 years and over in employment (ILO) classified by employment status

'000

Employment status	Dec- Feb 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06
Males							
Self employed (with paid employees)	87.9	88.7	90.0	90.4	91.8	89.3	90.6
Self employed (with no paid employees)	175.5	172.8	177.5	177.2	178.0	173.8	177.1
Employee	794.5	823.5	824.1	835.9	869.0	871.8	877.8
Assisting relative	7.9	7.4	6.7	6.6	7.5	5.6	4.4
Total males	1,065.8	1,092.4	1,098.3	1,110.1	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8
Females							
Self employed (with paid employees)	19.2	21.9	20.5	19.8	18.9	17.9	18.5
Self employed (with no paid employees)	30.7	31.3	31.1	33.8	31.3	32.8	32.3
Employee	713.4	741.6	751.0	758.4	785.8	781.6	790.1
Assisting relative	6.8	6.9	7.5	7.2	7.5	7.8	7.5
Total females	770.1	801.7	810.1	819.1	843.5	840.1	848.3
All persons							
Self employed (with paid employees)	107.1	110.6	110.5	110.2	110.7	107.2	109.1
Self employed (with no paid employees)	206.2	204.1	208.6	211.0	209.4	206.6	209.3
Employee	1,507.9	1,565.1	1,575.1	1,594.2	1,654.7	1,653.4	1,667.9
Assisting relative	14.6	14.3	14.2	13.7	15.0	13.4	11.8
Total persons	1,835.9	1,894.1	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1

Table 7a Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS2 regions¹ and ILO Economic Status

Region (NUTS2)	In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	'000	'000	'000	%	%
Border, Midland and Western					
Dec-Feb 2004	473.8	22.3	496.1	4.5	58.8
Sep-Nov 2004	490.8	23.4	514.2	4.6	59.7
Dec-Feb 2005	490.0	22.2	512.2	4.3	59.2
Mar-May 2005	495.5	22.1	517.6	4.3	59.6
Jun-Aug 2005	512.7	23.8	536.4	4.4	61.3
Sep-Nov 2005	506.5	24.8	531.4	4.7	60.1
Dec-Feb 2006	512.2	23.1	535.4	4.3	60.1
Southern and Eastern					
Dec-Feb 2004	1,362.1	61.3	1,423.4	4.3	60.6
Sep-Nov 2004	1,403.3	62.2	1,465.5	4.2	61.5
Dec-Feb 2005	1,418.3	60.0	1,478.3	4.1	61.6
Mar-May 2005	1,433.7	63.5	1,497.2	4.2	62.2
Jun-Aug 2005	1,477.1	72.9	1,550.1	4.7	63.9
Sep-Nov 2005	1,474.1	66.4	1,540.5	4.3	62.9
Dec-Feb 2006	1,485.9	65.1	1,551.0	4.2	63.0
State					
Dec-Feb 2004	1,835.9	83.6	1,919.5	4.4	60.1
Sep-Nov 2004	1,894.1	85.6	1,979.7	4.3	61.0
Dec-Feb 2005	1,908.3	82.1	1,990.5	4.1	61.0
Mar-May 2005	1,929.2	85.6	2,014.8	4.2	61.5
Jun-Aug 2005	1,989.8	96.7	2,086.5	4.6	63.2
Sep-Nov 2005	1,980.6	91.3	2,071.9	4.4	62.2
Dec-Feb 2006	1,998.1	88.2	2,086.3	4.2	62.2

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 7b Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS3 regions¹ and ILO Economic Status

Region (NUTS3)		In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
		'000	'000	'000	%	%
Border	Dec-Feb 2004	190.1	10.8	201.0	5.4	57.6
	Sep-Nov 2004	196.6	11.1	207.7	5.4	58.5
	Dec-Feb 2005	196.6	9.9	206.5	4.8	58.0
	Mar-May 2005	197.8	10.3	208.1	4.9	58.3
	Jun-Aug 2005	202.0	10.9	213.0	5.1	59.3
	Sep-Nov 2005	200.3	11.7	212.0	5.5	58.6
	Dec-Feb 2006	205.5	10.5	216.0	4.9	59.4
Midland	Dec-Feb 2004	104.6	4.6	109.2	4.2	59.7
	Sep-Nov 2004	107.4	4.7	112.1	4.2	60.2
	Dec-Feb 2005	109.9	3.9	113.8	3.5	60.6
	Mar-May 2005	110.1	4.5	114.6	4.0	61.0
	Jun-Aug 2005	113.7	4.9	118.6	4.1	62.6
	Sep-Nov 2005	113.0	4.5	117.5	3.9	61.2
	Dec-Feb 2006	114.3	3.9	118.3	3.3	60.9
West	Dec-Feb 2004	179.1	6.8	185.9	3.7	59.5
	Sep-Nov 2004	186.8	7.5	194.3	3.9	60.6
	Dec-Feb 2005	183.5	8.3	191.8	4.3	59.7
	Mar-May 2005	187.6	7.3	194.9	3.7	60.1
	Jun-Aug 2005	196.9	8.0	204.9	3.9	62.7
	Sep-Nov 2005	193.2	8.6	201.8	4.3	61.0
	Dec-Feb 2006	192.4	8.7	201.1	4.3	60.6
Dublin	Dec-Feb 2004	548.7	25.1	573.8	4.4	62.0
	Sep-Nov 2004	564.0	24.4	588.4	4.1	62.9
	Dec-Feb 2005	567.3	23.7	591.1	4.0	62.9
	Mar-May 2005	574.3	25.5	599.7	4.2	63.7
	Jun-Aug 2005	585.6	28.8	614.5	4.7	65.0
	Sep-Nov 2005	586.4	27.5	614.0	4.5	64.4
	Dec-Feb 2006	594.4	26.7	621.2	4.3	64.8
Mid-East	Dec-Feb 2004	203.5	6.6	210.1	3.1	62.9
	Sep-Nov 2004	212.0	6.2	218.2	2.9	63.7
	Dec-Feb 2005	216.2	6.0	222.2	2.7	64.3
	Mar-May 2005	217.3	6.0	223.4	2.7	64.2
	Jun-Aug 2005	223.8	8.6	232.4	3.7	66.1
	Sep-Nov 2005	224.1	8.2	232.3	3.5	65.1
	Dec-Feb 2006	225.8	7.2	233.0	3.1	65.0
Mid-West	Dec-Feb 2004	155.4	7.6	163.1	4.7	59.9
	Sep-Nov 2004	159.4	8.5	167.9	5.1	60.9
	Dec-Feb 2005	161.0	7.9	168.9	4.7	61.2
	Mar-May 2005	163.9	8.0	171.9	4.7	61.7
	Jun-Aug 2005	169.7	9.0	178.7	5.0	63.7
	Sep-Nov 2005	169.4	7.8	177.2	4.4	62.9
	Dec-Feb 2006	171.5	7.6	179.1	4.3	63.1
South-East	Dec-Feb 2004	191.0	10.8	201.8	5.3	58.8
	Sep-Nov 2004	195.2	11.6	206.8	5.6	59.1
	Dec-Feb 2005	198.9	11.3	210.2	5.4	59.5
	Mar-May 2005	200.3	12.0	212.3	5.6	59.9
	Jun-Aug 2005	206.4	14.8	221.2	6.7	61.8
	Sep-Nov 2005	203.9	12.3	216.1	5.7	59.9
	Dec-Feb 2006	206.3	12.9	219.2	5.9	60.3
South-West	Dec-Feb 2004	263.5	11.2	274.7	4.1	58.0
	Sep-Nov 2004	272.8	11.4	284.2	4.0	59.1
	Dec-Feb 2005	274.9	11.0	285.9	3.8	59.1
	Mar-May 2005	277.9	12.1	289.9	4.2	59.6
	Jun-Aug 2005	291.5	11.7	303.3	3.9	61.8
	Sep-Nov 2005	290.3	10.7	301.0	3.6	60.8
	Dec-Feb 2006	287.9	10.6	298.5	3.6	60.1
State	Dec-Feb 2004	1,835.9	83.6	1,919.5	4.4	60.1
	Sep-Nov 2004	1,894.1	85.6	1,979.7	4.3	61.0
	Dec-Feb 2005	1,908.3	82.1	1,990.5	4.1	61.0
	Mar-May 2005	1,929.2	85.6	2,014.8	4.2	61.5
	Jun-Aug 2005	1,989.8	96.7	2,086.5	4.6	63.2
	Sep-Nov 2005	1,980.6	91.3	2,071.9	4.4	62.2
	Dec-Feb 2006	1,998.1	88.2	2,086.3	4.2	62.2

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 8 Labour force participation rates (ILO) classified by sex, age group and marital status, December-February 2006

and marital status, December-February 2006									%
Marital status	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Single	29.6	78.9	91.4	86.7	76.4	57.0	45.5	15.5	69.8
Married	32.0	87.6	96.2	96.3	92.4	81.1	62.1	15.0	77.2
Separated or divorced	*	*	87.6	92.5	78.6	69.6	41.3	12.1	72.4
Widowed	*	*	*	*	79.7	71.9	56.1	7.2	24.3
Total males	29.6	79.0	92.7	94.0	89.2	76.8	58.8	14.0	72.5
Females									
Single	22.6	68.6	82.9	77.7	71.7	53.8	42.4	4.7	60.7
Married	49.8	58.8	71.7	64.0	63.1	46.1	28.8	3.8	52.4
Separated or divorced	*	*	60.3	65.9	68.3	50.5	40.8	7.2	58.4
Widowed	*	*	77.4	69.9	65.0	47.2	26.6	2.5	11.5
Total females	22.7	68.3	78.2	66.8	64.6	47.2	30.4	3.4	52.2
All persons									
Single	26.2	73.8	87.5	82.7	74.4	55.7	44.3	10.7	65.6
Married	43.9	66.8	82.4	80.2	78.0	64.0	46.2	10.1	64.9
Separated or divorced	*	*	68.5	74.9	72.1	57.9	41.0	9.2	63.5
Widowed	*	*	83.1	78.1	68.6	53.5	34.0	3.5	14.1
Total persons	26.2	73.6	85.6	80.4	76.9	62.1	44.7	8.0	62.2

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 9 Labour force participation rates (ILO) classified by sex and age group

	Age group								%
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	Total
Males									
Dec-Feb 2004	28.4	76.2	92.5	93.1	88.7	75.7	56.4	14.4	71.1
Sep-Nov 2004	29.1	77.7	92.6	93.5	89.1	74.8	56.9	13.6	71.5
Dec-Feb 2005	28.0	76.7	92.3	93.4	89.0	75.0	57.8	13.6	71.4
Mar-May 2005	27.9	75.8	92.8	93.8	89.4	73.8	60.0	14.6	71.8
Jun-Aug 2005	38.0	84.5	93.5	93.9	89.1	75.6	58.3	14.0	73.7
Sep-Nov 2005	30.4	79.4	92.8	93.8	89.7	75.0	58.2	14.1	72.5
Dec-Feb 2006	29.6	79.0	92.7	94.0	89.2	76.8	58.8	14.0	72.5
Females									
Dec-Feb 2004	21.7	67.7	76.0	65.7	59.1	42.0	23.8	2.8	49.5
Sep-Nov 2004	24.0	71.5	76.3	65.7	61.4	44.4	23.8	3.1	50.8
Dec-Feb 2005	22.4	68.6	76.8	66.3	62.4	45.3	25.9	3.2	50.9
Mar-May 2005	22.9	68.5	77.1	66.5	63.3	46.4	28.2	3.3	51.4
Jun-Aug 2005	32.4	74.5	77.6	66.9	62.6	46.4	27.8	3.1	52.9
Sep-Nov 2005	24.3	70.4	77.4	66.4	63.8	47.7	29.0	3.4	52.1
Dec-Feb 2006	22.7	68.3	78.2	66.8	64.6	47.2	30.4	3.4	52.2
All persons									
Dec-Feb 2004	25.1	72.0	84.2	79.4	73.9	59.1	40.2	7.9	60.1
Sep-Nov 2004	26.6	74.6	84.4	79.6	75.3	59.7	40.5	7.7	61.0
Dec-Feb 2005	25.3	72.6	84.6	79.8	75.7	60.3	41.9	7.8	61.0
Mar-May 2005	25.4	72.2	85.1	80.2	76.4	60.2	44.2	8.3	61.5
Jun-Aug 2005	35.2	79.5	85.6	80.4	75.9	61.2	43.1	7.9	63.2
Sep-Nov 2005	27.4	74.9	85.2	80.2	76.8	61.5	43.7	8.1	62.2
Dec-Feb 2006	26.2	73.6	85.6	80.4	76.9	62.1	44.7	8.0	62.2

Table 10 Number of persons in the labour force (ILO) classified by sex and age group

'000

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Dec-Feb 2004	43.9	129.8	299.3	269.1	219.7	81.6	46.7	28.3	1,118.4
Sep-Nov 2004	44.6	134.3	308.5	275.7	223.9	82.5	48.4	27.2	1,145.2
Dec-Feb 2005	42.6	132.0	312.5	277.2	224.9	83.5	49.6	27.5	1,149.8
Mar-May 2005	42.2	129.9	319.4	280.7	226.8	82.6	52.0	29.6	1,163.3
Jun-Aug 2005	57.5	145.7	326.0	282.6	227.6	85.1	51.2	28.5	1,204.3
Sep-Nov 2005	46.0	137.5	330.2	284.9	230.6	84.8	51.9	29.0	1,194.8
Dec-Feb 2006	44.6	136.6	334.9	286.8	230.3	87.2	53.2	28.8	1,202.6
Females									
Dec-Feb 2004	32.1	115.4	245.9	191.1	145.8	44.1	19.5	7.2	801.1
Sep-Nov 2004	35.1	122.7	253.3	194.2	153.4	47.9	20.1	7.9	834.5
Dec-Feb 2005	32.5	117.2	257.3	197.1	156.8	49.5	22.0	8.4	840.7
Mar-May 2005	33.1	116.5	260.3	198.0	159.8	51.1	24.2	8.5	851.5
Jun-Aug 2005	46.9	127.5	264.8	200.3	159.1	51.3	24.2	8.0	882.2
Sep-Nov 2005	35.1	122.1	269.3	200.0	163.0	53.0	25.7	8.9	877.1
Dec-Feb 2006	32.7	117.9	275.7	202.3	166.1	52.8	27.3	8.8	883.8
All persons									
Dec-Feb 2004	76.0	245.2	545.2	460.2	365.5	125.6	66.2	35.4	1,919.5
Sep-Nov 2004	79.7	257.0	561.8	469.9	377.3	130.3	68.5	35.1	1,979.7
Dec-Feb 2005	75.2	249.1	569.9	474.2	381.6	133.0	71.7	35.8	1,990.5
Mar-May 2005	75.3	246.4	579.8	478.7	386.7	133.7	76.1	38.1	2,014.8
Jun-Aug 2005	104.4	273.2	590.9	483.0	386.7	136.4	75.4	36.5	2,086.5
Sep-Nov 2005	81.1	259.5	599.5	484.9	393.6	137.8	77.5	37.9	2,071.9
Dec-Feb 2006	77.4	254.6	610.6	489.1	396.5	140.0	80.5	37.7	2,086.3

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

'000

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Dec-Feb 2004	39.1	120.3	284.0	258.0	211.6	79.3	45.5	28.0	1,065.8
Sep-Nov 2004	38.3	124.0	294.7	265.9	215.2	80.0	47.4	27.1	1,092.4
Dec-Feb 2005	37.9	122.2	298.0	267.2	216.5	80.6	48.4	27.3	1,098.3
Mar-May 2005	37.4	119.0	304.8	270.3	218.4	80.1	50.4	29.6	1,110.1
Jun-Aug 2005	50.0	133.7	310.1	273.4	218.7	82.0	50.1	28.5	1,146.3
Sep-Nov 2005	39.2	127.0	314.9	275.9	221.8	81.9	50.9	28.8	1,140.5
Dec-Feb 2006	38.9	126.5	318.5	277.9	221.9	84.9	52.6	28.6	1,149.8
Females									
Dec-Feb 2004	28.9	107.7	237.6	184.6	142.0	43.1	19.1	7.1	770.1
Sep-Nov 2004	30.8	114.6	244.7	187.9	149.2	46.7	19.9	7.9	801.7
Dec-Feb 2005	29.6	110.2	248.7	190.8	153.0	47.8	21.7	8.3	810.1
Mar-May 2005	29.6	109.1	251.6	191.9	155.2	49.7	23.6	8.4	819.1
Jun-Aug 2005	40.5	116.8	255.2	194.3	154.8	50.2	23.8	7.9	843.5
Sep-Nov 2005	32.0	112.8	258.7	193.2	157.8	51.6	25.2	8.8	840.1
Dec-Feb 2006	29.3	110.8	264.3	195.7	161.5	51.1	26.9	8.8	848.3
All persons									
Dec-Feb 2004	68.1	228.0	521.6	442.6	353.6	122.4	64.5	35.1	1,835.9
Sep-Nov 2004	69.1	238.7	539.4	453.8	364.4	126.6	67.2	34.9	1,894.1
Dec-Feb 2005	67.5	232.4	546.7	458.1	369.6	128.3	70.1	35.6	1,908.3
Mar-May 2005	67.1	228.1	556.4	462.2	373.6	129.8	74.0	38.0	1,929.2
Jun-Aug 2005	90.4	250.5	565.2	467.7	373.5	132.1	73.9	36.4	1,989.8
Sep-Nov 2005	71.2	239.8	573.5	469.2	379.7	133.5	76.2	37.6	1,980.6
Dec-Feb 2006	68.2	237.2	582.8	473.6	383.3	136.0	79.5	37.4	1,998.1

Table 12 Employment rates¹ (ILO) for persons aged 15-64, classified by sex and age group

%

	Age group							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	15-64
Males								
Dec-Feb 2004	25.3	70.6	87.7	89.2	85.4	73.6	54.9	75.4
Sep-Nov 2004	24.9	71.7	88.5	90.2	85.6	72.5	55.7	76.0
Dec-Feb 2005	24.9	71.0	88.0	90.0	85.7	72.4	56.4	76.0
Mar-May 2005	24.7	69.4	88.6	90.4	86.1	71.6	58.2	76.2
Jun-Aug 2005	33.0	77.6	88.9	90.8	85.6	72.9	57.0	78.2
Sep-Nov 2005	25.9	73.3	88.5	90.8	86.3	72.4	57.2	77.0
Dec-Feb 2006	25.8	73.1	88.2	91.0	85.9	74.7	58.1	77.2
Females								
Dec-Feb 2004	19.6	63.2	73.4	63.5	57.5	41.1	23.3	55.9
Sep-Nov 2004	21.1	66.8	73.7	63.6	59.7	43.3	23.6	57.2
Dec-Feb 2005	20.3	64.5	74.2	64.2	60.9	43.8	25.6	57.5
Mar-May 2005	20.5	64.2	74.5	64.4	61.5	45.1	27.5	58.0
Jun-Aug 2005	27.9	68.3	74.7	64.9	61.0	45.4	27.3	59.3
Sep-Nov 2005	22.1	65.0	74.3	64.2	61.7	46.5	28.5	58.4
Dec-Feb 2006	20.3	64.1	75.0	64.6	62.8	45.7	30.0	58.6
All persons								
Dec-Feb 2004	22.5	66.9	80.6	76.3	71.5	57.6	39.2	65.7
Sep-Nov 2004	23.1	69.3	81.1	76.9	72.7	58.0	39.7	66.7
Dec-Feb 2005	22.7	67.8	81.2	77.1	73.3	58.2	41.0	66.8
Mar-May 2005	22.7	66.8	81.6	77.4	73.8	58.5	42.9	67.1
Jun-Aug 2005	30.5	72.9	81.9	77.9	73.3	59.2	42.2	68.8
Sep-Nov 2005	24.1	69.2	81.5	77.6	74.0	59.5	42.9	67.8
Dec-Feb 2006	23.1	68.6	81.7	77.9	74.4	60.4	44.1	68.0

¹ The employment rate represents the percentage of the population (or sub-population) that is in employment. The unemployment rate, on the other hand, represents the percentage of the labour force that are unemployed in any given population.

Table 13 Number of persons unemployed (ILO) classified by sex and age group

'000

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Dec-Feb 2004	4.8	9.5	15.4	11.1	8.1	2.3	1.2	0.3	52.6
Sep-Nov 2004	6.4	10.3	13.8	9.9	8.7	2.5	1.1	*	52.8
Dec-Feb 2005	4.7	9.7	14.5	9.9	8.3	2.9	1.2	*	51.5
Mar-May 2005	4.8	10.9	14.6	10.3	8.5	2.5	1.6	*	53.2
Jun-Aug 2005	7.5	12.0	16.0	9.3	9.0	3.1	1.1	*	58.0
Sep-Nov 2005	6.8	10.5	15.3	8.9	8.7	2.9	0.9	*	54.3
Dec-Feb 2006	5.7	10.2	16.3	8.9	8.5	2.3	0.7	*	52.8
Females									
Dec-Feb 2004	3.2	7.7	8.2	6.6	3.8	1.0	0.5	*	31.0
Sep-Nov 2004	4.3	8.1	8.6	6.3	4.2	1.2	*	*	32.8
Dec-Feb 2005	3.0	7.0	8.6	6.2	3.7	1.7	0.3	*	30.6
Mar-May 2005	3.5	7.4	8.7	6.2	4.6	1.4	0.6	*	32.4
Jun-Aug 2005	6.4	10.7	9.7	6.0	4.3	1.2	0.4	*	38.8
Sep-Nov 2005	3.1	9.3	10.6	6.8	5.2	1.4	0.5	*	37.0
Dec-Feb 2006	3.5	7.2	11.4	6.6	4.7	1.7	0.4	*	35.4
All persons									
Dec-Feb 2004	8.0	17.2	23.6	17.6	11.9	3.2	1.7	0.3	83.6
Sep-Nov 2004	10.6	18.4	22.4	16.2	12.9	3.7	1.3	*	85.6
Dec-Feb 2005	7.7	16.7	23.2	16.2	12.1	4.6	1.5	*	82.1
Mar-May 2005	8.3	18.3	23.3	16.5	13.0	3.9	2.1	*	85.6
Jun-Aug 2005	14.0	22.6	25.6	15.3	13.3	4.3	1.5	*	96.7
Sep-Nov 2005	9.9	19.7	26.0	15.7	14.0	4.3	1.4	0.3	91.3
Dec-Feb 2006	9.1	17.3	27.7	15.5	13.1	4.0	1.1	0.3	88.2

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 14 Unemployment rates (ILO) classified by sex and age group

%

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Dec-Feb 2004	10.9	7.3	5.1	4.1	3.7	2.8	2.6	1.0	4.7
Sep-Nov 2004	14.3	7.7	4.5	3.6	3.9	3.0	2.2	*	4.6
Dec-Feb 2005	11.1	7.4	4.6	3.6	3.7	3.5	2.5	*	4.5
Mar-May 2005	11.3	8.4	4.6	3.7	3.7	3.1	3.0	*	4.6
Jun-Aug 2005	13.1	8.2	4.9	3.3	3.9	3.7	2.1	*	4.8
Sep-Nov 2005	14.7	7.6	4.6	3.1	3.8	3.4	1.8	*	4.5
Dec-Feb 2006	12.8	7.4	4.9	3.1	3.7	2.7	1.3	*	4.4
Females									
Dec-Feb 2004	9.9	6.7	3.4	3.4	2.6	2.2	2.3	*	3.9
Sep-Nov 2004	12.2	6.6	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.5	*	*	3.9
Dec-Feb 2005	9.1	6.0	3.4	3.2	2.4	3.4	1.4	*	3.6
Mar-May 2005	10.6	6.3	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.3	*	3.8
Jun-Aug 2005	13.7	8.4	3.6	3.0	2.7	2.3	1.6	*	4.4
Sep-Nov 2005	8.9	7.6	3.9	3.4	3.2	2.6	1.8	*	4.2
Dec-Feb 2006	10.5	6.1	4.1	3.3	2.8	3.2	1.5	*	4.0
All persons									
Dec-Feb 2004	10.5	7.0	4.3	3.8	3.3	2.6	2.5	0.9	4.4
Sep-Nov 2004	13.4	7.1	4.0	3.4	3.4	2.8	1.9	*	4.3
Dec-Feb 2005	10.2	6.7	4.1	3.4	3.2	3.5	2.2	*	4.1
Mar-May 2005	11.0	7.4	4.0	3.4	3.4	2.9	2.8	*	4.2
Jun-Aug 2005	13.4	8.3	4.3	3.2	3.4	3.1	2.0	*	4.6
Sep-Nov 2005	12.2	7.6	4.3	3.2	3.5	3.1	1.8	0.9	4.4
Dec-Feb 2006	11.8	6.8	4.5	3.2	3.3	2.9	1.3	0.7	4.2

Table 15 Labour force situation of married females classified by age group

Married Females	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Total married women ('000)									
Dec-Feb 2004	0.3	4.6	129.6	216.9	191.8	80.9	58.5	99.0	781.7
Sep-Nov 2004	0.5	5.4	129.3	218.2	190.1	83.2	59.1	99.9	785.8
Dec-Feb 2005	0.3	5.5	128.5	220.2	191.3	85.2	59.9	102.3	793.3
Mar-May 2005	0.3	5.6	130.3	220.1	191.6	83.5	61.4	102.7	795.6
Jun-Aug 2005	*	6.1	132.8	218.1	194.4	83.4	61.9	104.3	801.2
Sep-Nov 2005	0.4	6.2	134.3	221.1	195.6	84.2	63.4	106.3	811.4
Dec-Feb 2006	0.5	6.1	134.4	221.9	196.0	84.3	65.1	107.5	815.6
of which In labour force ('000)									
Dec-Feb 2004	*	2.0	85.1	135.5	109.7	32.6	12.9	3.4	381.1
Sep-Nov 2004	0.3	2.9	87.0	138.0	111.4	35.3	12.9	3.7	391.3
Dec-Feb 2005	*	2.8	88.6	140.8	114.5	36.8	14.7	3.9	402.3
Mar-May 2005	*	3.2	91.7	140.5	116.8	36.7	16.0	4.0	409.1
Jun-Aug 2005	*	3.3	91.9	140.8	117.9	36.9	16.0	3.5	410.4
Sep-Nov 2005	*	3.4	95.5	140.8	121.4	39.3	17.1	3.9	421.6
Dec-Feb 2006	0.3	3.6	96.4	142.0	123.6	38.8	18.8	4.1	427.4
of which In employment ('000)									
Dec-Feb 2004	*	1.8	83.2	131.9	107.2	31.9	12.8	3.4	372.2
Sep-Nov 2004	0.3	2.6	85.3	134.1	108.8	34.7	12.7	3.7	382.1
Dec-Feb 2005	*	2.6	86.2	136.8	112.0	36.0	14.5	3.9	392.2
Mar-May 2005	*	3.0	88.6	136.8	114.3	35.9	15.8	4.0	398.5
Jun-Aug 2005	*	3.1	89.4	137.2	115.4	36.1	15.9	3.5	400.6
Sep-Nov 2005	*	3.2	92.1	136.6	117.9	38.4	16.7	3.9	409.0
Dec-Feb 2006	0.3	3.1	93.1	138.0	120.6	37.6	18.6	4.0	415.2
Participation rates (%)									
Dec-Feb 2004	*	42.2	65.6	62.4	57.2	40.3	22.1	3.4	48.8
Sep-Nov 2004	*	53.0	67.3	63.2	58.6	42.4	21.8	3.7	49.8
Dec-Feb 2005	*	51.9	69.0	63.9	59.8	43.3	24.5	3.8	50.7
Mar-May 2005	*	56.4	70.4	63.8	61.0	44.0	26.1	3.9	51.4
Jun-Aug 2005	*	54.5	69.2	64.6	60.6	44.2	25.9	3.4	51.2
Sep-Nov 2005	*	55.5	71.1	63.7	62.1	46.6	26.9	3.7	52.0
Dec-Feb 2006	*	58.8	71.7	64.0	63.1	46.1	28.8	3.8	52.4

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 16 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by labour force, employment, unemployment and long-term unemployment (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 1997	1,539.0	1,379.9	159.0	86.3	10.3	5.6
Sep-Nov 1997	1,638.9	1,467.7	171.2	90.6	10.4	5.5
Dec-Feb 1998	1,620.1	1,481.7	138.4	72.6	8.5	4.5
Mar-May 1998	1,620.4	1,494.0	126.4	63.6	7.8	3.9
Jun-Aug 1998	1,689.1	1,560.2	128.9	62.0	7.6	3.7
Sep-Nov 1998	1,653.3	1,547.1	106.2	51.9	6.4	3.1
Dec-Feb 1999	1,650.5	1,555.6	94.9	43.7	5.7	2.6
Mar-May 1999	1,685.9	1,589.1	96.9	41.5	5.7	2.5
Jun-Aug 1999	1,766.1	1,665.8	100.4	38.0	5.7	2.2
Sep-Nov 1999	1,735.7	1,647.4	88.3	36.4	5.1	2.1
Dec-Feb 2000	1,729.9	1,648.7	81.2	29.8	4.7	1.7
Mar-May 2000	1,745.9	1,671.4	74.5	27.7	4.3	1.6
Jun-Aug 2000	1,813.3	1,736.1	77.1	25.9	4.3	1.4
Sep-Nov 2000	1,781.0	1,712.6	68.4	24.3	3.8	1.4
Dec-Feb 2001	1,776.2	1,710.9	65.3	21.7	3.7	1.2
Mar-May 2001	1,787.0	1,721.9	65.1	20.8	3.6	1.2
Jun-Aug 2001	1,867.4	1,788.9	78.5	22.1	4.2	1.2
Sep-Nov 2001	1,831.6	1,759.9	71.8	21.4	3.9	1.2
Dec-Feb 2002	1,832.7	1,753.5	79.2	23.2	4.3	1.3
Mar-May 2002	1,840.9	1,763.9	77.0	21.7	4.2	1.2
Jun-Aug 2002	1,894.6	1,808.4	86.2	22.0	4.6	1.2
Sep-Nov 2002	1,866.3	1,782.3	84.1	24.9	4.5	1.3
Dec-Feb 2003	1,868.7	1,783.6	85.2	26.7	4.6	1.4
Mar-May 2003	1,875.5	1,793.4	82.1	27.2	4.4	1.5
Jun-Aug 2003	1,935.3	1,836.4	98.8	27.0	5.1	1.4
Sep-Nov 2003	1,914.8	1,828.9	85.9	26.2	4.5	1.4
Dec-Feb 2004	1,919.5	1,835.9	83.6	30.5	4.4	1.6
Mar-May 2004	1,920.3	1,836.2	84.2	26.3	4.4	1.4
Jun-Aug 2004	1,987.5	1,893.6	93.9	28.0	4.7	1.4
Sep-Nov 2004	1,979.7	1,894.1	85.6	28.9	4.3	1.5
Dec-Feb 2005	1,990.5	1,908.3	82.1	27.8	4.1	1.4
Mar-May 2005	2,014.8	1,929.2	85.6	27.6	4.2	1.4
Jun-Aug 2005	2,086.5	1,989.8	96.7	28.1	4.6	1.3
Sep-Nov 2005	2,071.9	1,980.6	91.3	27.6	4.4	1.3
Dec-Feb 2006	2,086.3	1,998.1	88.2	26.2	4.2	1.3

Table 17 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex and duration of unemployment (ILO)

'000

Duration of unemployment(ILO)	Dec- Feb 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06
Males							
Less than 1 year	29.7	31.3	30.3	31.7	36.1	33.4	32.9
1 year and over	22.8	21.3	21.0	21.2	21.6	20.7	19.7
Not stated	*	*	*	0.3	0.3	*	*
Total males	52.6	52.8	51.5	53.2	58.0	54.3	52.8
Females							
Less than 1 year	23.2	25.2	23.8	26.1	32.3	30.0	28.9
1 year and over	7.7	7.5	6.7	6.3	6.5	6.9	6.6
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total females	31.0	32.8	30.6	32.4	38.8	37.0	35.4
All persons							
Less than 1 year	52.9	56.5	54.1	57.7	68.4	63.5	61.7
1 year and over	30.5	28.9	27.8	27.6	28.1	27.6	26.2
Not stated	*	*	0.3	0.3	0.3	*	*
Total persons	83.6	85.6	82.1	85.6	96.7	91.3	88.2

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 18 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex, age group and duration of unemployment (ILO)

'000

	QNHS Dec-Feb 2005				QNHS Dec-Feb 2006			
	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	9.8	14.0	6.6	30.3	12.1	15.0	5.8	32.9
1 year and over	4.6	10.3	6.0	21.0	3.7	10.1	5.8	19.7
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total males	14.4	24.5	12.6	51.5	15.9	25.2	11.7	52.8
Females								
Less than 1 year	8.0	11.5	4.3	23.8	9.0	14.9	4.9	28.9
1 year and over	1.8	3.4	1.5	6.7	1.6	3.1	1.9	6.6
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total females	10.0	14.9	5.8	30.6	10.6	18.0	6.8	35.4
All persons								
Less than 1 year	17.8	25.5	10.9	54.1	21.1	29.9	10.7	61.7
1 year and over	6.5	13.8	7.5	27.8	5.3	13.3	7.7	26.2
Not stated	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	*
Total persons	24.4	39.3	18.4	82.1	26.5	43.2	18.5	88.2

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 19 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by detailed ILO Economic Status

ILO Economic Status	Dec- Feb 04	Mar- May 04	Jun- Aug 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06
	'000								
In labour force	1,919.5	1,920.3	1,987.5	1,979.7	1,990.5	2,014.8	2,086.5	2,071.9	2,086.3
In employment:	1,835.9	1,836.2	1,893.6	1,894.1	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1
full-time	1,527.1	1,525.0	1,576.2	1,577.6	1,581.0	1,597.5	1,647.0	1,639.8	1,654.7
part-time:	308.8	311.1	317.4	316.6	327.4	331.7	342.8	340.8	343.4
of which: <i>part-time, not underemployed</i>	305.0	307.4	313.4	313.6	324.3	327.7	339.3	336.4	339.2
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	3.8	3.7	4.0	2.9	3.0	4.0	3.5	4.4	4.2
Unemployed:									
seeking full-time work	83.6	84.2	93.9	85.6	82.1	85.6	96.7	91.3	88.2
seeking part-time work	70.8	71.7	80.1	72.2	69.1	71.0	80.2	74.2	72.7
passive jobseekers	12.8	12.4	13.8	13.4	13.0	14.7	16.5	17.0	15.5
Not in labour force	1,272.5	1,280.3	1,230.9	1,266.0	1,272.5	1,262.6	1,215.1	1,260.2	1,265.9
Marginally attached to the labour force:	12.2	10.0	13.4	11.3	12.1	9.1	13.6	9.8	10.1
Discouraged workers	9.4	8.1	10.8	8.4	9.3	7.0	10.9	7.4	8.0
Passive jobseekers	2.8	1.9	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.1	2.7	2.4	2.1
Others:	1,260.3	1,270.3	1,217.5	1,254.7	1,260.4	1,253.5	1,205.7	1,250.3	1,255.8
Persons not in education, who want work ¹	54.9	53.3	56.5	56.1	56.5	53.9	56.5	58.4	60.5
Persons in education, who want work ¹	29.7	35.3	25.0	27.8	29.4	31.8	24.9	26.6	32.0
All other persons	1,175.8	1,181.7	1,135.9	1,170.8	1,174.4	1,167.9	1,120.1	1,165.3	1,163.3
Total persons aged 15 or over	3,192.0	3,200.6	3,218.4	3,245.7	3,262.9	3,277.4	3,301.6	3,332.1	3,352.2

¹ Persons who want work are those who are looking for work but are not available and those who say they want a job but are not looking for work.

Table 20 Indicators of potential labour supply

Quarter	S1	S2	S3
Dec-Feb 2001	4.2	7.4	7.5
Mar-May 2001	4.1	7.3	7.4
Jun-Aug 2001	4.7	7.8	8.0
Sep-Nov 2001	4.4	7.5	7.6
Dec-Feb 2002	4.8	7.8	8.0
Mar-May 2002	4.6	7.6	7.8
Jun-Aug 2002	5.0	7.9	8.0
Sep-Nov 2002	5.0	7.9	8.0
Dec-Feb 2003	5.0	8.1	8.3
Mar-May 2003	4.8	8.0	8.2
Jun-Aug 2003	5.7	8.3	8.5
Sep-Nov 2003	4.9	7.2	7.4
Dec-Feb 2004	4.8	7.6	7.8
Mar-May 2004	4.8	7.4	7.6
Jun-Aug 2004	5.2	8.0	8.2
Sep-Nov 2004	4.7	7.5	7.6
Dec-Feb 2005	4.6	7.3	7.5
Mar-May 2005	4.6	7.2	7.3
Jun-Aug 2005	5.1	7.7	7.9
Sep-Nov 2005	4.7	7.5	7.7
Dec-Feb 2006	4.6	7.4	7.6

%

NOTE: Definitions of indicators by reference to Table 19:

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 21 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by Principal Economic Status¹**

'000

Principal Economic Status	Dec-Feb 04	Sep-Nov 04	Dec-Feb 05	Mar-May 05	Jun-Aug 05	Sep-Nov 05	Dec-Feb 06
Males							
At work	1,036.7	1,066.9	1,068.5	1,080.6	1,101.1	1,109.8	1,119.6
Unemployed	79.3	78.0	78.9	77.1	80.6	80.9	80.2
Student	177.4	171.2	177.7	176.8	163.1	169.0	169.7
Home duties	4.4	5.2	5.4	5.1	6.0	5.2	5.0
Retired	205.7	208.6	210.1	208.7	210.9	211.9	213.3
Others	69.0	71.7	70.7	72.5	71.3	72.0	71.4
Total males	1,572.4	1,601.6	1,611.3	1,620.9	1,633.0	1,648.8	1,659.1
Females							
At work	730.1	761.1	767.2	776.8	789.5	794.4	806.0
Unemployed	35.0	34.0	31.2	32.5	39.1	37.5	36.2
Student	196.2	186.5	196.4	193.6	182.8	193.6	196.6
Home duties	553.4	553.3	546.5	539.4	539.8	538.5	535.0
Retired	67.3	70.5	71.4	72.2	74.8	76.9	76.9
Others	37.6	38.8	39.1	42.1	42.5	42.4	42.3
Total females	1,619.6	1,644.1	1,651.7	1,656.6	1,668.6	1,683.3	1,693.1
All persons							
At work	1,766.8	1,828.0	1,835.7	1,857.4	1,890.6	1,904.3	1,925.6
Unemployed	114.3	112.0	110.1	109.7	119.8	118.4	116.4
Student	373.6	357.7	374.1	370.4	346.0	362.6	366.2
Home duties	557.8	558.5	551.9	544.6	545.8	543.7	540.0
Retired	273.0	279.1	281.5	280.9	285.6	288.7	290.2
Others	106.5	110.5	109.7	114.6	113.8	114.4	113.7
Total persons	3,192.0	3,245.7	3,262.9	3,277.4	3,301.6	3,332.1	3,352.2

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

Table 22 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by ILO Economic Status and by Principal Economic Status, December-February 2006

'000

ILO Economic Status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
Males							
In employment:	1,115.3	2.3	26.6	*	3.9	1.6	1,149.8
full-time	1,068.4	1.5	1.6	*	0.5	1.0	1,073.0
part-time:	46.9	0.8	25.0	*	3.4	0.6	76.9
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed</i>	45.3	0.6	25.0	*	3.4	0.6	75.0
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	1.6	0.3	*	*	*	*	1.9
Unemployed:	0.8	48.2	1.5	*	0.8	1.4	52.8
seeking full-time work	0.8	47.4	0.6	*	0.3	1.2	50.5
seeking part-time work	*	0.8	0.9	*	0.5	*	2.3
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.9	3.1	*	*	0.3	0.7	6.2
Others	1.7	26.6	141.3	4.8	208.2	67.7	450.3
Total males aged 15 or over	1,119.6	80.2	169.7	5.0	213.3	71.4	1,659.1
Females							
In employment:	802.0	1.6	33.5	7.9	1.2	2.1	848.3
full-time	576.3	1.0	1.6	1.2	*	1.6	581.8
part-time:	225.7	0.6	31.9	6.7	1.1	0.5	266.5
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed</i>	223.5	0.6	31.9	6.6	1.1	0.5	264.2
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	2.2	*	*	*	*	*	2.3
Unemployed:	0.3	21.2	1.4	11.4	0.5	0.6	35.4
seeking full-time work	*	16.9	0.3	4.4	*	0.4	22.3
seeking part-time work	*	4.4	1.1	7.0	0.4	0.3	13.2
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.0	1.0	0.3	1.2	*	*	3.9
Others	2.7	12.4	161.4	514.6	75.1	39.4	805.5
Total females aged 15 or over	806.0	36.2	196.6	535.0	76.9	42.3	1,693.1
All persons							
In employment:	1,917.3	3.9	60.1	8.0	5.1	3.8	1,998.1
full-time	1,644.7	2.4	3.2	1.3	0.5	2.6	1,654.7
part-time:	272.6	1.5	56.9	6.8	4.6	1.1	343.4
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed</i>	268.7	1.2	56.9	6.7	4.6	1.1	339.2
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	3.8	0.3	*	*	*	*	4.2
Unemployed:	1.1	69.4	2.9	11.4	1.3	2.0	88.2
seeking full-time work	1.0	64.3	0.9	4.5	0.5	1.6	72.7
seeking part-time work	*	5.1	2.0	7.0	0.9	0.5	15.5
Marginally attached to the labour force	2.9	4.1	0.5	1.2	0.5	0.9	10.1
Others	4.4	39.0	302.7	519.4	283.3	107.1	1,255.8
Total persons aged 15 or over	1,925.6	116.4	366.2	540.0	290.2	113.7	3,352.2

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 23 Persons aged 15 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained, ILO Economic Status and sex

Highest education level attained	Dec-Feb 2005					Dec-Feb 2006				
	In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	'000	'000	'000	%	%
Males aged 15 to 64										
Primary or below	134.3	14.0	148.3	9.4	60.6	126.9	11.6	138.5	8.4	59.4
Lower secondary	213.6	14.5	228.1	6.4	72.9	212.5	14.3	226.8	6.3	72.8
Higher secondary	290.7	11.9	302.6	3.9	82.9	309.2	13.0	322.2	4.0	84.6
Post leaving cert	115.0	3.4	118.4	2.9	92.5	127.2	3.8	131.0	2.9	93.4
Third level non degree	99.1	2.1	101.1	2.1	91.2	103.9	3.0	106.9	2.8	91.9
Third level degree or above	189.7	4.3	194.0	2.2	92.1	210.2	5.1	215.3	2.4	92.9
Other	28.5	1.2	29.7	4.0	80.3	31.2	1.8	33.0	5.5	85.7
Total males aged 15 to 64	1,070.9	51.4	1,122.3	4.6	79.6	1,121.2	52.5	1,173.7	4.5	80.8
Females aged 15 to 64										
Primary or below	54.2	3.7	57.9	6.4	27.8	52.4	4.0	56.4	7.1	28.8
Lower secondary	101.4	6.5	107.9	6.0	40.7	100.6	6.0	106.6	5.6	40.2
Higher secondary	234.4	9.0	243.3	3.7	62.5	240.8	12.0	252.8	4.7	63.6
Post leaving cert	93.9	4.0	97.9	4.1	74.2	92.9	4.6	97.5	4.7	73.6
Third level non degree	119.3	3.2	122.5	2.6	80.5	119.4	3.9	123.2	3.2	79.4
Third level degree or above	180.8	3.7	184.5	2.0	85.2	215.6	3.7	219.4	1.7	85.7
Other	17.7	0.5	18.2	2.7	59.7	17.9	1.2	19.1	6.3	64.3
Total females aged 15 to 64	801.8	30.6	832.4	3.7	59.7	839.5	35.4	874.9	4.0	61.1
All persons aged 15 to 64										
Primary or below	188.6	17.8	206.3	8.6	45.5	179.4	15.5	194.9	8.0	45.4
Lower secondary	315.0	21.0	336.0	6.3	58.1	313.1	20.3	333.3	6.1	57.8
Higher secondary	525.1	20.9	546.0	3.8	72.4	550.0	25.0	574.9	4.3	73.9
Post leaving cert	208.9	7.4	216.3	3.4	83.2	220.1	8.4	228.6	3.7	83.9
Third level non degree	218.4	5.2	223.6	2.3	85.0	223.3	6.9	230.1	3.0	84.8
Third level degree or above	370.5	8.0	378.5	2.1	88.6	425.9	8.8	434.7	2.0	89.1
Other	46.2	1.7	48.0	3.5	71.2	49.1	3.0	52.1	5.8	76.4
Total persons aged 15 to 64	1,872.7	82.0	1,954.7	4.2	69.7	1,960.7	87.9	2,048.7	4.3	71.0

Table 24 Estimated adult¹ members of family units classified by composition of family unit, ILO Economic Status and sex, December-February 2006.

Composition of family unit	In employment			Unemployed			Not economically active			Total ²		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Husband and wife (or couple) without children:												
Wife/female partner aged under 45	99.7	92.8	192.5	2.4	3.3	5.7	3.7	8.8	12.5	105.9	104.9	210.8
Wife/female partner aged 45 to 64	74.1	53.9	128.0	1.6	1.4	3.0		63.7	109.7	121.7	119.0	240.7
Wife/female partner aged 65 or over	9.2	2.8	12.0	*	*	*		70.8	79.2	80.1	82.0	162.1
Total	183.0	149.5	332.5	4.1	4.7	8.8		120.5	272.2	307.7	305.9	613.5
Husband and wife (or couple) with children:												
At least 1 child aged under 5 and no child aged 15 or over	170.0	109.1	279.0	5.6	3.7	9.3		67.8	76.1	183.9	180.6	364.5
At least 1 child aged under 5 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	11.0	4.9	15.9	0.6	*	0.6		1.1	7.3	12.7	12.3	25.0
All children aged 5 to 14	77.7	49.4	127.1	1.5	2.0	3.5		2.5	28.1	81.8	79.5	161.3
No child aged under 5, at least 1 child aged 5 to 14 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	112.1	74.1	186.2	3.0	2.4	5.4		9.7	47.0	124.9	123.4	248.3
All children aged 15 or over	141.2	92.4	233.6	3.7	2.1	5.8		50.3	97.7	195.2	192.1	387.3
Total	512.0	329.9	841.9	14.5	10.1	24.6		72.0	319.9	598.5	587.9	1,186.4
Lone parent with children:												
At least 1 child aged under 5 and no child aged 15 or over	0.8	16.1	16.9	*	2.5	2.6		0.3	23.2	1.2	41.8	42.9
At least 1 child aged under 5 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	*	1.0	1.0	*	*	*		*	1.8	*	2.9	2.9
All children aged 5 to 14	0.9	14.0	14.9	*	1.6	1.7		0.3	8.9	9.2		
No child aged under 5, at least 1 child aged 5 to 14 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	2.4	15.4	17.8	*	1.1	1.2		0.3	8.7	1.3	24.5	25.8
All children aged 15 or over	7.6	23.7	31.2	0.3	0.8	1.1		7.4	43.7	15.2	68.2	83.4
Total	11.7	70.1	81.8	0.6	6.2	6.7		8.3	86.3	20.5	162.6	183.1
Total	706.7	549.5	1,256.2	19.1	21.1	40.2		200.8	485.8	926.7	1,056.3	1,983.0

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 25 Annual Labour Force Survey results classified by ILO Economic Status for persons aged 15 or over in EU member states

Region	Q2/2004					Q2/2005				
	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-25	213,354	193,876	19,479	56.6	9.1	216,434	197,049	19,386	57.0	9.0
EU-15	179,640	164,988	14,654	56.8	8.2	182,509	167,711	14,799	57.3	8.1
Eurozone ¹	142,858	130,006	12,853	55.6	9.0	145,461	132,542	12,920	56.1	8.9
Belgium	4,473	4,144	329	52.0	7.4	4,582	4,212	370	52.8	8.1
Czech Republic	5,101	4,682	419	59.0	8.2	5,153	4,751	402	59.2	7.8
Denmark	2,893	2,742	151	65.9	5.2	2,876	2,738	138	65.3	4.8
Germany	39,724	35,463	4,261	56.9	10.7	40,809	36,195	4,613	58.3	11.3
Estonia	661	595	66	58.8	10.0	663	609	54	58.8	8.1
Greece	4,823	4,331	493	53.3	10.2	4,848	4,382	467	53.3	9.6
Spain	20,093	17,866	2,227	55.5	11.1	20,840	18,895	1,945	56.7	9.3
France	26,707	24,388	2,319	55.9	8.7	26,926	24,611	2,315	56.0	8.6
Ireland	1,920	1,836	84	60.0	4.4	2,015	1,929	86	61.5	4.2
Italy	24,361	22,438	1,923	49.6	7.9	24,488	22,651	1,837	49.2	7.5
Cyprus	352	336	15	63.1	4.3	367	348	20	63.4	5.4
Latvia	1,133	1,021	112	57.7	9.9	1,132	1,028	104	57.6	9.2
Lithuania	1,621	1,437	184	57.4	11.4	1,610	1,473	137	56.7	8.5
Luxembourg	198	188	10	55.3	5.1	203	194	9	55.5	4.6
Hungary	4,135	3,894	241	49.5	5.8	4,190	3,891	298	50.0	7.1
Malta	158	146	12	49.2	7.6	161	148	13	49.7	8.1
Netherlands	8,496	8,101	395	64.9	4.6	8,523	8,113	410	65.0	4.8
Austria	3,932	3,742	190	58.6	4.8	4,014	3,803	211	59.2	5.2
Poland	16,907	13,682	3,225	54.4	19.1	17,019	13,947	3,072	54.5	18.1
Portugal	5,472	5,125	347	61.9	6.3	5,531	5,132	399	62.1	7.2
Slovenia	1,006	946	60	59.0	6.0	1,005	947	58	58.7	5.8
Slovak Republic	2,640	2,149	491	60.1	18.6	2,625	2,196	429	59.2	16.3
Finland	2,659	2,384	275	62.1	10.3	2,682	2,425	258	62.2	9.6
Sweden	4,620	4,311	309	62.5	6.7	4,772	4,359	413	64.0	8.7
United Kingdom	29,269	27,929	1,341	61.7	4.6	29,400	28,072	1,328	61.7	4.5

Source: Eurostat.

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

Note: ¹ Eurozone consists of EU15 states with the exceptions of Denmark, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Annex

Estimates of the Population aged 15 years and over classified by nationality and labour force status

The following tables provide tentative estimates of the labour force classified by nationality. The figures are considered 'tentative' as the very large migration flows in recent years present a significant measurement challenge in a general purpose household survey such as the QNHS. The main concerns, which are based on international experience, centre around the extent to which the survey captures minority communities in a proportionate and representative manner. Notwithstanding these concerns, the CSO believes that the estimates presented in the following tables provide a broadly accurate picture of the current situation and recent trends. The figures are subject to review in the light of the results of the 2006 Census of Population.

Table A1 Estimated number of persons aged 15 years and over classified by nationality and ILO Economic Status, December-February, 2005 and 2006

ILO Economic Status					'000
Nationality	In employment	Unemployed	In Labour force	Not economically active	Total
Q1 2006					
Irish ¹	1,814.0	74.5	1,888.5	1,192.5	3,081.0
Non-Irish nationals	184.1	13.8	197.9	73.3	271.3
<i>of which:</i>					
<i>United Kingdom</i>	40.4	2.9	43.3	26.4	69.8
<i>EU15 excl. Irl. & UK</i>	24.0	1.2	25.2	6.8	32.0
<i>Accession states EU15 to EU25</i>	69.1	5.0	74.1	7.9	82.0
<i>Other</i>	50.6	4.7	55.3	32.2	87.5
Total persons	1,998.1	88.2	2,086.3	1,265.9	3,352.2
Q1 2005					
Irish ¹	1,771.8	73.6	1,845.4	1,201.0	3,046.4
Non-Irish nationals	136.5	8.5	145.1	71.4	216.6
<i>of which:</i>					
<i>United Kingdom</i>	37.6	1.9	39.5	23.9	63.4
<i>EU15 excl. Irl. & UK</i>	22.7	1.3	24.0	8.0	32.1
<i>Accession states EU15 to EU25</i>	34.9	1.8	36.8	5.2	42.0
<i>Other</i>	41.3	3.5	44.8	34.3	79.1
Total persons	1,908.3	82.1	1,990.5	1,272.5	3,262.9
Year on year changes					
Irish ¹	+ 42.2	+ 0.9	+ 43.1	- 8.5	+ 34.6
Non-Irish nationals	+ 47.6	+ 5.3	+ 52.8	+ 1.9	+ 54.7
<i>of which:</i>					
<i>United Kingdom</i>	+ 2.8	+ 1.0	+ 3.8	+ 2.5	+ 6.4
<i>EU15 excl. Irl. & UK</i>	+ 1.3	- 0.1	+ 1.2	- 1.2	- 0.1
<i>Accession states EU15 to EU25</i>	+ 34.2	+ 3.2	+ 37.3	+ 2.7	+ 40.0
<i>Other</i>	+ 9.3	+ 1.2	+ 10.5	- 2.1	+ 8.4
Total persons	+ 89.8	+ 6.1	+ 95.8	- 6.6	+ 89.3

¹ Includes 'not stated'.

Data may be subject to future revision.

Data may be subject to sampling or other survey errors, which are greater in respect of smaller values or estimates of change.

Table A2 Estimated number of persons aged 15 years and over in employment (ILO) classified by nationality and NACE Economic Sector, December-January, 2005 and 2006

Nationality	NACE Economic Sector											Total
	A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	C-E Other production industries	F Construction	G Wholesale and retail trade	H Hotels and restaurants	I Transport, storage and communication	J-K Financial and other business services	L Public administration and defence	M Education	N Health	O-Q Other services	
Q1 2006												
Irish ¹	110.3	255.5	227.3	264.5	86.3	112.2	241.7	101.9	126.0	177.4	111.1	1,814.0
Non-Irish nationals	5.2	29.4	26.5	21.7	26.8	8.3	27.5	0.6	6.8	18.9	11.7	184.1
of which:												
United Kingdom	0.6	5.8	5.4	4.7	2.5	2.4	7.1	0.6	3.3	5.0	2.9	40.4
EU15 excl. Irl. & UK	0.7	2.8	0.9	1.8	3.0	1.3	7.5	*	2.0	1.5	2.2	24.0
Accession states EU15 to EU25	3.1	15.7	16.2	9.3	9.4	3.1	6.7	*	0.4	1.5	3.6	69.1
Other	0.8	5.1	4.0	5.9	11.9	1.5	6.2	*	1.1	10.9	3.0	50.6
Total persons	115.5	285.0	253.8	286.1	113.1	120.5	269.2	103.1	132.8	196.3	122.8	1,998.1
Q1 2005												
Irish ¹	108.5	274.7	215.0	250.4	90.8	109.2	235.1	95.3	113.8	172.4	106.7	1,771.8
Non-Irish nationals	3.9	22.5	18.1	17.2	21.4	6.5	17.9	0.7	5.9	13.1	8.6	136.5
of which:												
United Kingdom	0.6	5.9	4.7	5.5	2.0	2.9	5.4	0.7	2.2	4.1	3.6	37.6
EU15 excl. Irl. & UK	0.6	2.8	1.7	2.3	3.4	1.1	5.1	*	2.1	1.4	2.0	22.7
Accession states EU15 to EU25	2.2	7.2	8.3	4.4	7.0	0.8	2.3	*	*	0.8	1.6	34.9
Other	0.5	6.6	3.4	5.0	9.0	1.7	5.1	*	1.6	6.8	1.4	41.3
Total persons	112.5	297.3	233.1	267.6	112.3	115.7	252.9	96.4	119.8	185.5	115.4	1,908.3
Year on year changes												
Irish ¹	+ 1.8	- 19.2	+ 12.3	+ 14.1	- 4.5	+ 3.0	+ 6.6	+ 6.6	+ 12.2	+ 5.0	+ 4.4	+ 42.2
Non-Irish nationals	+ 1.3	+ 6.9	+ 8.4	+ 4.5	+ 5.4	+ 1.8	+ 9.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.9	+ 5.8	+ 3.1	+ 47.6
of which:												
United Kingdom	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.7	- 0.8	+ 0.5	- 0.5	+ 1.7	- 0.1	+ 1.1	+ 0.9	- 0.7	+ 2.8
EU15 excl. Irl. & UK	+ 0.1	0.0	- 0.8	- 0.5	- 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 2.4	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Accession states EU15 to EU25	+ 0.9	+ 8.5	+ 7.9	+ 4.9	+ 2.4	+ 2.3	+ 4.4	0.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	+ 2.0	+ 34.2
Other	+ 0.3	- 1.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	+ 2.9	- 0.2	+ 1.1	0.0	- 0.5	+ 4.1	+ 1.6	+ 9.3
Total persons	+ 3.0	- 12.3	+ 20.7	+ 18.5	+ 0.8	+ 4.8	+ 16.3	+ 6.7	+ 13.0	+ 10.8	+ 7.4	+ 89.8

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation

¹ Includes 'not stated'.

Data may be subject to future revision.

Data may be subject to sampling or other survey errors, which are greater in respect of smaller values or estimates of change.

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 (International Labour Office) 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 within the next two weeks, 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, Employment 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 Employment Rate is the number of employed aged 15 to 64 expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 to 64. 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. Eleven NACE sub-categories are distinguished in Table 2b 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 2b, 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 4 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 2002 and 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 4 is at a broad level, corresponding to SOC major groups. More detailed quarterly data is available on request from the CSO.

Family Units

Table 24 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 20 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.

Changes to Questions on Employment

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?”

The main effect of these changes 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.

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.

Seasonal Adjustment Methodology

The data from the QNHS was adjusted using the X-11-ARIMA procedure. This procedure is an adaptation of the U.S. Bureau of the Census X-11 seasonal adjustment programme developed by Statistics Canada.

The first task in the process is to identify whether the series being adjusted is best considered additive or multiplicative for seasonal adjustment purposes. All of the QNHS series analysed were found to be multiplicative.

Once the series has been identified as being either additive or multiplicative the method fits an ARIMA (Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average) model to the unadjusted series and then uses the model forecast to extend the unadjusted series. The extended series is then seasonally adjusted using the standard X-11 seasonal adjustment method. The extension of the series improves the estimation of the seasonal factors and reduces revisions to the seasonally adjusted series as new data becomes available. To be able to use X-11-ARIMA you must have at least 5 years data.

The essential difference between X-11 and X-11-ARIMA is the use of ARIMA (Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average) models to improve the adjustment at the end of the time series by extending the time series. In the ARIMA model identification phase an attempt to determine the type of underlying probabilistic process that governs the behaviour of the time series is made. The choice of ARIMA model in this process was restricted to the 5 pre-defined models which were identified by Statistics Canada as fitting the majority of well behaved time series.

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, Midland 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

QNHS 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). Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Survey
Quarter 2	EU module (always covered under EU legislation)
Quarter 3	National module
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	Union membership
Q2 2004	Work organisation and working time
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