

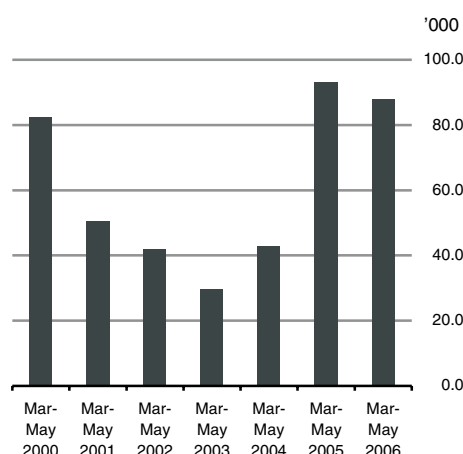


Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

12 September 2006

Quarterly National Household Survey Quarter 2 2006

**Annual increase in employment in the
Second Quarters 2000 to 2006**



ILO Labour Force

	In Employment	Unemployed	Labour Force
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
Mar-May 2006			
	2,017.0	91.4	2,108.3
<i>Change in quarter</i>	<i>+18.9</i>	<i>+3.2</i>	<i>+22.0</i>
<i>Change in year</i>	<i>+87.8</i>	<i>+5.8</i>	<i>+93.5</i>

Numbers in employment exceed 2 million

In the second quarter of 2006 there were 2,017,000 persons in employment which represents an annual increase of 87,800 or 4.6%. This is the fifth successive quarter where the annual employment growth rate has exceeded 4.5% and is the first time the number of persons in employment has exceeded 2 million. Over the past eight years the numbers in employment have grown by 523,000 or 35%, the number of females increased by just under 262,000, or 44%, while males were up by just over 261,000 or 29%. *See table 1 and graph opposite.*

In the year to the second quarter of 2006 the number of men in employment increased by 51,900 (+4.7%), while the number of females in employment increased by 35,900 (+4.4%). Full-time employment (+67,900) accounted for almost four-fifths of the overall annual increase in employment while it is estimated that Foreign nationals accounted for almost 55% (+47,800) of the annual increase. *See table A1 in the annex.*

There were 91,400 persons unemployed in the second quarter of 2006, representing an increase of 5,800 in the year. The number of persons in short-term unemployment increased by 3,800 to 61,500 while the long-term unemployed increased by 2,000 to 29,600. *See tables 1, 17 & 18.*

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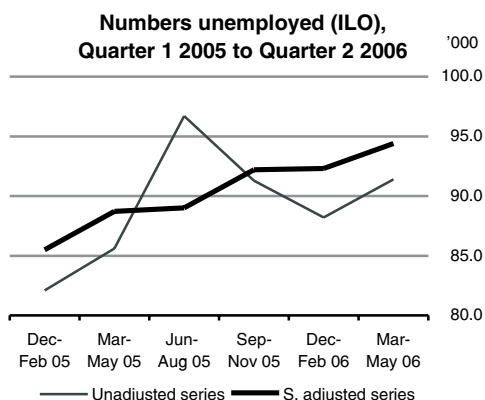
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When seasonal factors are taken into account the number of persons in employment increased by 20,700 in the quarter while the numbers unemployed showed an increase of 2,100. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.4% showing no change from that recorded in the previous quarter. *See table 3 and graph opposite.*

Overall, the labour force increased strongly by 93,500 (+4.6%) to 2,108,300 in the year to the second quarter of 2006. This accounted for 62.6% of all persons aged 15 years and over compared with 61.5% in the second quarter of 2005. The female participation rate rose from 51.4% to 52.5% while that for males increased from 71.8% to 72.8%. *See table 1.*

The latest available figures for all 25 EU member states, which are for the first quarter of 2006, show that between the first quarters of 2005 and 2006 Ireland's employment level grew by 4.7% and its labour force by 4.8%. The comparable figures for the EU-25 countries were 1.7% and 1.2% respectively. *See table 25.*

Continued growth in Construction and Services sectors

Employment in the *Construction* (+20,300) and *Wholesale and retail trade* (+17,500) sectors continued to grow strongly in the year to the second quarter of 2006. Strong growth was also recorded in *Health* (+13,200), *Education* (+12,500), *Financial and other business services* (+10,200) and *Public administration and defence* (+6,900). In contrast, there was an annual decline of 5,700 in *Other production industries*; however, the quarterly change for the sector showed an increase of 3,500. *See table 2b.*

The largest occupational increases were evident in *Personal and protective service* (+19,800), *Professional* (+17,500), *Craft and related* (+14,400) and *Sales* (+14,000). *Plant and machine operatives* showed no change over the year with *Managers and administrators* (-3,700) and *Associate professional and technical* (-400) the only occupational categories to show declines year on year. *See table 4.*

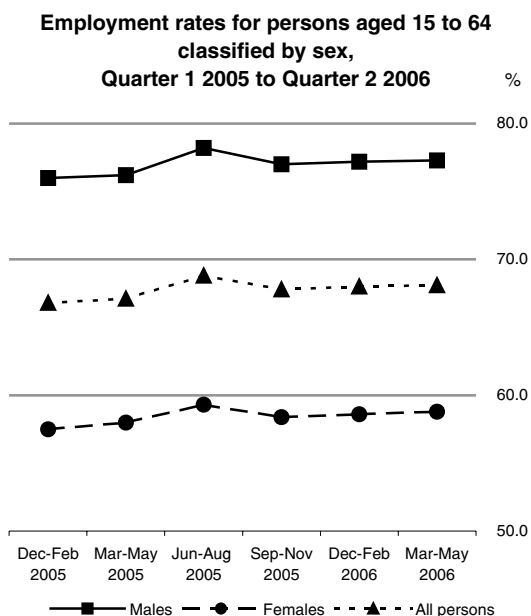
There were 1,685,500 employees in the second quarter of 2006, an annual increase of 91,300. This comprised an increase of 51,900 males and 39,300 females. The number of self-employed persons decreased by 1,300 to 319,900 in the year while the number of persons assisting relatives decreased by 2,100 to 11,600. *See table 6.*

Employment rate increases for all age groups

The employment rate for persons aged 15-64 continued to rise in the year to the second quarter of 2006 from 67.1% to 68.1%. The rates for both males and females increased over the year, with the male rate rising from 76.2% to 77.3% and the female rate rising from 58.0% to 58.8%. Strong employment rate growth was particularly evident among the older age groups. The employment rate for males aged 55-59 increased from 71.6% to 74.0% while the rate for females in the 55-59 age group rose from 45.1% to 47.4% over the year. *See tables 11, 12 and graph opposite.*

In absolute terms the most significant employment increase was evident in the 25-34 year age category which increased by 36,000 in the twelve months to the second quarter of 2006. Males accounted for 20,000 of this increase. Other significant increases were evident in the 35-44 (+12,700), and 45-54 (+10,000) year age categories. *See table 11.*

The number of persons in part-time employment increased by 19,900 in the year to the second quarter of 2006. The sectors that showed the largest annual increases in part-time employment were *Wholesale and retail trade* (+3,500) and *Health* (+3,000). *See table 1.*



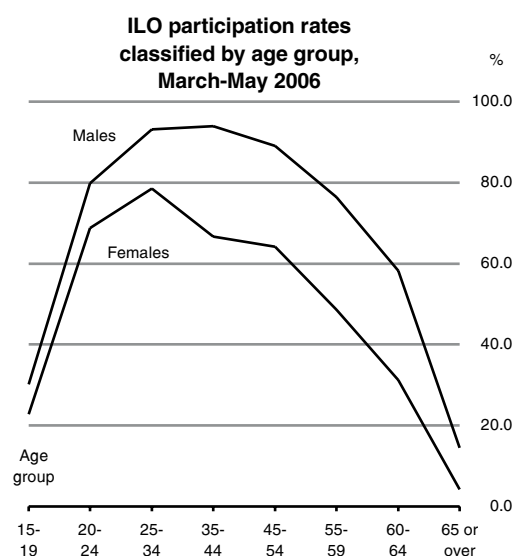
The average working week in the second quarter of 2006 was 36.5 hours showing a fall of 0.4 hours from the figure recorded in the same quarter last year. The number of persons working *variable hours* increased slightly to 221,700 over the year. See table 5.

Migration and increased participation continue to 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 65,700 to the labour force in the year to the second quarter of 2006. Net inward migration is estimated to have accounted for almost 80% of this demographic increase. The demographic component 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 28,000 in the annual labour force growth. The increase in male participation was concentrated primarily in the 15-24 year age category while the increase in female participation was more evident in those aged 25 and over. There was an increase of just under 16,000 in the number of married women in the labour force with their participation rate rising from 51.4% to 52.4% between the second 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 7.3% in the second quarter of 2005 to 7.5% in the second quarter of 2006. See table 20.

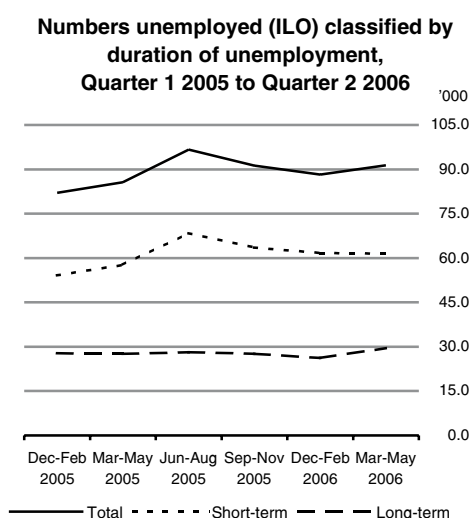


Increase in numbers unemployed

There were 55,200 males and 36,100 females unemployed in the second quarter of 2006, representing annual increases of 2,000 and 3,700 for men and women respectively. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged over the quarter at 4.4% compared with 4.3% in the same quarter of 2005. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for men was 4.5% while that for women was 4.3%. See tables 1, 3 & 13.

Two thirds of the overall increase in unemployment was accounted for by those whose duration of unemployment was less than a year (i.e. short-term unemployed). When compared to the same quarter last year the long-term unemployment rate remained unchanged at 1.4%. See tables 16, 17, 18 and graph opposite.

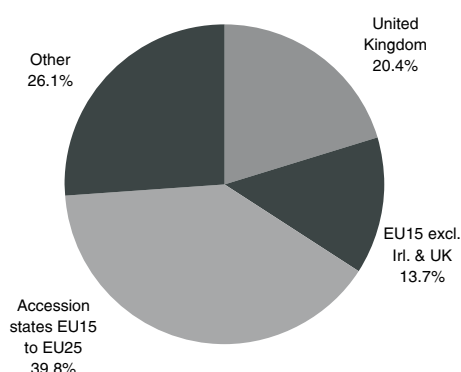
The annual increase in short-term unemployment was concentrated in the 25-44 age category and was evenly distributed between men and women. However, the increase in the long-term unemployed numbers (+2,000) was fully accounted for by females and in particular those within the 25-44 age category.



Over 84,000 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 283,300 Foreign nationals aged 15 years of age and over in the State in the second quarter of 2006. Just under 200,000 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 their numbers in the labour force growing from 50,400 in Q2 2005 to 84,400 in the most recent quarter. See table A1 in the annex.

Non-Irish nationals in the Labour Force, March-May 2006



The *Construction* sector continues to attract the largest proportion of new migrants with a little over 1 in 5 of them finding employment in that sector. However, strong growth was also recorded in the *Hotels and restaurants* (+7,200), *Financial and other business services* (+7,000, accounting for almost 70% of the annual growth in this sector), *Other production Industries* (+6,900) and *Health* (+5,900) sectors. The *Other production industries* sector recorded an annual increase of 6,900 despite the overall decline in employment in this sector. Almost 68% of the foreign national employment growth can be attributed to persons from the ten new EU member states. *See table A1 in the annex.*

Based on these changes, in the second quarter of 2006 Foreign nationals accounted for 25.1% of workers in *Hotels and restaurants*, 12.4% of *Construction*, and just over 11% of those working in *Other production industries* sectors.

Foreign nationals accounted for 3,600 of the overall increase of 5,800 in the numbers unemployed between the second quarters of 2005 and 2006.

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

Almost a third (651,700) of persons in employment had a third level qualification in the second quarter of 2006. The rates for males and females in the most recent quarter were 27.8% (314,300) and 40.0% (337,300) respectively. Almost 18% of the unemployed had a third level qualification in the second quarter of 2006. *See table 23.*

Regional comparisons

Employment grew by 20,400 (+4.1%) in the Border, Midland and Western region and by 67,400 (+4.7%) in the Southern and Eastern region in the year to the second quarter of 2006. There were increases of 3,600 and 2,100 in the numbers unemployed in the Southern and Eastern region and Border, Midland and Western region, respectively. *See table 7a.*

The participation rate in the Southern and Eastern region increased from 62.2% to 63.3% between the second quarters of 2005 and 2006. The participation rate in the Border, Midland and Western region increased also, showing an increase of 0.8 of a percentage point to 60.4% over the same period.

At NUTS3 level employment grew in all regions with the South-East (+6.6%) and the Mid-West (+6.3%) showing the highest percentage increases over the year. The number of persons in employment resident in the Dublin region increased by 21,100 (+3.7%). *See table 7b.*

Principal Economic Status

The number of persons describing their usual situation as “at work” grew by 83,400 in the year to 1,940,800. This comprised an increase of 49,800 males and 33,600 females. This compares to an increase of 87,000 in the year to the second quarter of 2005. Meanwhile, the number of persons describing themselves as “unemployed” rose by 5,700 in the year to 115,400. The numbers recorded as “on home duties” fell by 9,200 to 535,400 in the year. *See table 21.*

The number of students showed a fall of 1,400 in the year to 369,000. In the second quarter of 2006 17.2% of students had a job compared to 15.5% for the same quarter last year and this represents an increase of 6,200 in the number of students with a job. *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	Mar- May 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06
Males							
In labour force	1,119.6	1,149.8	1,163.3	1,204.3	1,194.8	1,202.6	1,217.2
In employment:	1,065.2	1,098.3	1,110.1	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8	1,162.0
full-time	1,000.2	1,028.5	1,039.4	1,071.0	1,066.0	1,073.0	1,082.2
part-time:	64.9	69.8	70.7	75.3	74.6	76.9	79.8
of which: part-time, not underemployed ¹	63.5	68.2	68.7	73.6	72.3	75.0	78.0
part-time, underemployed ¹	1.5	1.6	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.9	1.7
Unemployed:	54.4	51.5	53.2	58.0	54.3	52.8	55.2
seeking full-time work	52.1	48.9	50.5	54.3	50.7	50.5	53.1
seeking part-time work	2.3	2.6	2.7	3.6	3.5	2.3	2.1
Not in labour force	459.1	461.5	457.6	428.7	454.0	456.5	455.4
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	6.3	7.3	5.2	6.9	5.3	6.2	5.8
Others	452.8	454.2	452.3	421.8	448.6	450.3	449.6
Total males aged 15 or over	1,578.7	1,611.3	1,620.9	1,633.0	1,648.8	1,659.1	1,672.6
Unemployment rate %	4.9	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.5
Participation rate %	70.9	71.4	71.8	73.7	72.5	72.5	72.8
Females							
In labour force	800.8	840.7	851.5	882.2	877.1	883.8	891.1
In employment:	771.0	810.1	819.1	843.5	840.1	848.3	855.0
full-time	524.8	552.5	558.1	576.0	573.9	581.8	583.2
part-time:	246.2	257.6	261.0	267.5	266.2	266.5	271.8
of which: part-time, not underemployed ¹	243.9	256.1	259.0	265.7	264.1	264.2	269.4
part-time, underemployed ¹	2.3	1.4	2.1	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.4
Unemployed:	29.8	30.6	32.4	38.8	37.0	35.4	36.1
seeking full-time work	19.6	20.2	20.4	25.9	23.5	22.3	23.3
seeking part-time work	10.2	10.4	12.0	12.9	13.5	13.2	12.8
Not in labour force	821.1	810.9	805.0	786.4	806.2	809.4	806.6
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	3.6	4.8	3.9	6.7	4.5	3.9	3.9
Others	817.5	806.2	801.2	779.6	801.7	805.5	802.7
Total females aged 15 or over	1,621.9	1,651.7	1,656.6	1,668.6	1,683.3	1,693.1	1,697.7
Unemployment rate %	3.7	3.6	3.8	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.1
Participation rate %	49.4	50.9	51.4	52.9	52.1	52.2	52.5
All persons							
In labour force	1,920.3	1,990.5	2,014.8	2,086.5	2,071.9	2,086.3	2,108.3
In employment:	1,836.2	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0
full-time	1,525.0	1,581.0	1,597.5	1,647.0	1,639.8	1,654.7	1,665.4
part-time:	311.1	327.4	331.7	342.8	340.8	343.4	351.6
of which: part-time, not underemployed ¹	307.4	324.3	327.7	339.3	336.4	339.2	347.4
part-time, underemployed ¹	3.7	3.0	4.0	3.5	4.4	4.2	4.1
Unemployed:	84.2	82.1	85.6	96.7	91.3	88.2	91.4
seeking full-time work	71.7	69.1	71.0	80.2	74.2	72.7	76.5
seeking part-time work	12.4	13.0	14.7	16.5	17.0	15.5	14.9
Not in labour force	1,280.3	1,272.5	1,262.6	1,215.1	1,260.2	1,265.9	1,262.0
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	10.0	12.1	9.1	13.6	9.8	10.1	9.8
Others	1,270.3	1,260.4	1,253.5	1,201.5	1,250.3	1,255.8	1,252.2
Total persons aged 15 or over	3,200.6	3,262.9	3,277.4	3,301.6	3,332.1	3,352.2	3,370.3
Unemployment rate %	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.3
Participation rate %	60.0	61.0	61.5	63.2	62.2	62.2	62.6

¹ See Background Notes.

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

	'000						
Broad economic sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Mar- May 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06
Males							
A-B Agriculture	105.8	101.5	102.6	109.0	104.9	104.8	103.8
C-F Industry	404.5	431.8	436.1	447.0	446.0	443.7	454.0
G-Q Services	554.8	565.0	571.3	590.3	589.6	601.4	604.2
Females							
A-B Agriculture	11.1	11.0	11.1	10.6	10.4	10.7	10.7
C-F Industry	102.1	98.6	100.5	99.6	95.4	95.1	97.2
G-Q Services	657.8	700.5	707.6	733.2	734.4	742.5	747.0
All persons							
A-B Agriculture	117.0	112.5	113.7	119.6	115.3	115.5	114.5
C-F Industry	506.5	530.4	536.6	546.7	541.3	538.8	551.2
G-Q Services	1,212.7	1,265.4	1,278.9	1,323.5	1,324.0	1,343.8	1,351.2
Total persons	1,836.2	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0

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

	'000						
Economic sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Mar- May 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06
Males							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	105.8	101.5	102.6	109.0	104.9	104.8	103.8
C-E Other production industries	208.8	210.0	205.9	207.2	205.4	202.5	204.6
F Construction	195.7	221.8	230.2	239.8	240.6	241.1	249.4
G Wholesale and retail trade	131.3	134.3	133.2	142.1	141.5	143.5	143.7
H Hotels and restaurants	49.4	48.2	45.7	50.5	48.0	49.1	49.7
I Transport, storage and communication	87.2	90.4	91.1	91.2	91.9	91.3	91.8
J-K Financial and other business services	120.9	123.7	129.5	130.4	130.5	136.4	136.2
L Public administration and defence	48.8	48.5	48.8	50.0	50.2	51.3	51.5
M Education	33.2	34.6	35.8	35.0	36.3	37.6	38.9
N Health	33.8	32.9	33.5	32.8	32.5	33.7	34.9
O-Q Other services	50.3	52.4	53.7	58.2	58.7	58.5	57.6
Total males	1,065.2	1,098.3	1,110.1	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8	1,162.0
Females							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	11.1	11.0	11.1	10.6	10.4	10.7	10.7
C-E Other production industries	91.8	87.2	88.3	87.4	82.8	82.5	83.9
F Construction	10.3	11.4	12.2	12.2	12.5	12.7	13.3
G Wholesale and retail trade	128.9	133.3	133.7	144.5	143.5	142.6	140.7
H Hotels and restaurants	58.4	64.0	65.3	69.8	67.5	64.0	66.6
I Transport, storage and communication	26.0	25.3	27.1	27.3	26.5	29.2	28.9
J-K Financial and other business services	116.1	129.2	127.6	132.9	132.4	132.8	131.1
L Public administration and defence	40.7	47.9	49.4	51.0	50.6	51.8	53.6
M Education	84.7	85.2	87.3	84.8	91.5	95.3	96.7
N Health	143.3	152.6	154.5	158.7	159.0	162.5	166.4
O-Q Other services	59.7	63.0	62.7	64.2	63.4	64.2	63.0
Total females	771.0	810.1	819.1	843.5	840.1	848.3	855.0
All persons							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	117.0	112.5	113.7	119.6	115.3	115.5	114.5
C-E Other production industries	300.6	297.3	294.2	294.6	288.2	285.0	288.5
F Construction	206.0	233.1	242.4	252.1	253.2	253.8	262.7
G Wholesale and retail trade	260.2	267.6	266.9	286.6	285.0	286.1	284.4
H Hotels and restaurants	107.8	112.3	111.0	120.4	115.5	113.1	116.3
I Transport, storage and communication	113.2	115.7	118.2	118.5	118.3	120.5	120.7
J-K Financial and other business services	237.0	252.9	257.1	263.3	263.0	269.2	267.3
L Public administration and defence	89.5	96.4	98.2	101.0	100.7	103.1	105.1
M Education	117.9	119.8	123.1	119.8	127.9	132.8	135.6
N Health	177.0	185.5	188.0	191.5	191.5	196.3	201.2
O-Q Other services	110.0	115.4	116.4	122.4	122.1	122.8	120.6
Total persons	1,836.2	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0

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

'000

ILO Economic Status/ NACE Economic Sector	Mar- May 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06
Males							
In labour force	1,128.4	1,158.3	1,171.9	1,185.2	1,197.1	1,211.4	1,225.9
In employment:	1,072.6	1,105.4	1,117.7	1,130.7	1,141.8	1,156.9	1,169.9
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	107.6	102.7	104.3	106.0	105.0	106.0	105.5
C-E Other production industries	210.0	210.6	207.0	205.4	205.5	203.1	205.6
F Construction	197.5	224.6	232.1	236.1	239.5	244.3	251.1
G Wholesale and retail trade	133.3	134.7	135.3	139.3	141.7	144.0	146.0
H Hotels and restaurants	49.6	48.4	45.9	49.0	49.3	49.3	49.9
I Transport, storage and communication	87.3	91.0	91.1	90.9	91.6	91.9	91.8
J-K Financial and other business services	119.8	125.1	128.3	129.4	131.4	137.9	134.9
L Public administration and defence	48.7	48.6	48.7	49.4	50.9	51.3	51.4
M Education	33.1	34.6	35.6	35.5	36.2	37.6	38.6
N Health	33.5	33.0	33.1	33.0	32.8	33.8	34.5
O-Q Other services	51.0	52.4	54.6	57.7	58.2	58.5	58.6
Unemployed	55.5	53.2	54.0	54.4	55.2	54.9	55.9
Unemployment rate %	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5
Participation rate %	71.4	71.9	72.3	72.5	72.7	73.0	73.3
Females	808.3	846.0	859.4	867.0	878.7	889.2	899.2
In labour force	776.1	813.6	824.5	832.5	841.8	851.6	860.5
In employment:							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	10.9	11.1	10.9	10.4	10.8	10.7	10.5
C-E Other production industries	91.9	88.7	88.0	85.0	84.0	84.0	83.5
F Construction	10.3	11.5	12.0	12.0	12.9	12.8	13.0
G Wholesale and retail trade	131.0	133.5	136.1	140.7	144.4	142.9	143.4
H Hotels and restaurants	60.3	66.8	67.2	65.8	66.8	66.8	68.4
I Transport, storage and communication	26.3	25.3	27.4	27.2	26.4	29.2	29.1
J-K Financial and other business services	117.7	128.4	129.5	131.8	132.4	131.8	133.2
L Public administration and defence	40.6	48.6	49.4	50.2	50.7	52.5	53.7
M Education	82.9	83.4	85.4	89.4	90.7	93.3	94.7
N Health	143.6	152.7	154.8	157.6	159.6	162.7	166.7
O-Q Other services	60.4	64.0	63.6	62.9	62.8	65.1	64.0
Unemployed	32.0	32.4	34.7	34.6	36.9	37.7	38.6
Unemployment rate %	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.3
Participation rate %	49.8	51.3	51.8	51.9	52.3	52.6	52.9
All persons							
In labour force	1,936.2	2,004.5	2,030.9	2,053.4	2,074.6	2,100.8	2,124.7
In employment:	1,848.3	1,919.5	1,941.6	1,963.8	1,983.1	2,009.1	2,029.8
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	118.7	113.9	115.3	116.5	115.5	116.9	116.1
C-E Other production industries	301.8	299.9	295.1	289.9	289.6	287.5	289.3
F Construction	208.0	236.0	244.3	248.0	252.4	257.1	264.3
G Wholesale and retail trade	264.3	268.4	271.5	280.2	285.6	287.1	289.5
H Hotels and restaurants	110.8	115.0	114.0	114.5	115.8	115.8	119.4
I Transport, storage and communication	113.3	116.4	118.2	118.0	118.2	121.2	120.6
J-K Financial and other business services	237.4	253.2	257.7	261.6	263.8	269.4	268.0
L Public administration and defence	89.6	97.0	98.4	99.4	101.5	103.7	105.3
M Education	116.2	118.0	121.4	124.5	126.9	130.8	133.7
N Health	177.0	185.7	187.9	190.5	192.4	196.6	201.0
O-Q Other services	111.5	116.7	118.1	120.6	120.7	124.2	122.4
Unemployed	87.7	85.5	88.7	89.0	92.2	92.3	94.4
Unemployment rate %	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4
Participation rate %	60.4	61.5	61.9	62.1	62.4	62.7	63.0

¹ See Background Notes.

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

'000

Broad occupational group	Mar- May 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06
Males							
1. Managers and administrators	227.1	220.7	218.6	216.7	217.3	213.8	215.5
2. Professional	108.4	108.3	112.5	109.5	114.9	118.5	119.8
3. Associate professional and technical	72.3	68.5	70.9	71.0	69.9	74.8	70.8
4. Clerical and secretarial	53.1	58.1	58.7	61.4	58.4	59.7	61.9
5. Craft and related	231.3	256.5	260.1	267.1	269.6	267.4	274.6
6. Personal and protective service	72.8	75.3	73.4	77.9	76.9	82.0	80.4
7. Sales	59.0	61.8	63.0	66.8	68.5	69.9	69.3
8. Plant and machine operatives	130.3	140.0	138.0	143.3	144.4	142.6	141.1
9. Other	111.0	109.0	114.9	132.7	120.7	121.1	128.7
Total males	1,065.2	1,098.3	1,110.1	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8	1,162.0
Females							
1. Managers and administrators	92.1	96.4	98.1	96.3	95.5	95.1	97.5
2. Professional	103.0	101.5	106.1	103.4	109.8	117.5	116.3
3. Associate professional and technical	94.8	97.8	100.5	100.0	97.3	100.3	100.3
4. Clerical and secretarial	167.6	181.1	177.7	187.5	184.4	186.1	186.1
5. Craft and related	12.4	12.3	11.7	12.6	11.5	10.4	11.7
6. Personal and protective service	112.6	124.0	125.0	133.9	135.0	131.7	137.9
7. Sales	93.3	101.0	101.4	109.5	108.7	110.8	109.1
8. Plant and machine operatives	29.1	29.7	29.7	28.8	27.7	27.8	26.6
9. Other	66.1	66.2	68.9	71.5	70.2	68.7	69.4
Total females	771.0	810.1	819.1	843.5	840.1	848.3	855.0
All persons							
1. Managers and administrators	319.2	317.2	316.7	313.0	312.8	309.0	313.0
2. Professional	211.4	209.9	218.6	213.0	224.7	236.0	236.1
3. Associate professional and technical	167.1	166.3	171.5	170.9	167.2	175.2	171.1
4. Clerical and secretarial	220.7	239.2	236.3	248.8	242.8	245.8	248.0
5. Craft and related	243.6	268.8	271.9	279.7	281.1	277.8	286.3
6. Personal and protective service	185.4	199.3	198.4	211.8	211.9	213.7	218.2
7. Sales	152.3	162.8	164.4	176.3	177.2	180.6	178.4
8. Plant and machine operatives	159.4	169.7	167.7	172.0	172.1	170.4	167.7
9. Other	177.0	175.3	183.7	204.2	190.9	189.8	198.1
Total persons	1,836.2	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0

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

	'000						
Usual hours of work per week	Mar-May 04	Dec-Feb 05	Mar-May 05	Jun-Aug 05	Sep-Nov 05	Dec-Feb 06	Mar-May 06
Males							
1-9 hours	9.1	8.6	7.8	4.8	7.4	8.4	8.7
10-19	17.4	18.4	19.1	16.1	19.8	23.1	22.0
20-29	35.6	37.7	39.4	42.2	40.6	42.5	45.4
30-34	18.8	18.1	19.1	21.6	21.3	20.5	21.1
35-39	375.6	391.3	394.8	405.0	407.2	412.9	430.9
40-44	250.5	253.5	256.7	275.2	265.4	273.1	268.9
45 & over	198.9	196.0	203.1	213.2	209.7	200.0	193.7
Variable hours ¹	159.3	174.7	170.0	168.0	169.2	169.2	171.2
Total males	1,065.2	1,098.3	1,110.1	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8	1,162.0
<i>Average hours per week</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>	<i>40.5</i>
Females							
1-9 hours	22.5	23.6	24.0	18.9	25.0	25.2	25.9
10-19	77.8	81.0	85.7	80.3	84.9	85.1	85.8
20-29	152.2	159.2	159.8	170.7	164.9	169.0	169.1
30-34	49.9	49.1	51.9	55.9	56.9	56.6	55.5
35-39	293.6	309.9	308.0	324.7	322.0	321.4	331.6
40-44	98.8	104.2	107.0	109.2	109.2	111.0	106.3
45 & over	32.6	32.2	33.4	34.5	32.4	32.6	30.2
Variable hours ¹	43.7	50.9	49.3	49.3	44.8	47.4	50.6
Total females	771.0	810.1	819.1	843.5	840.1	848.3	855.0
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>31.8</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>31.7</i>
All persons							
1-9 hours	31.6	32.2	31.8	23.8	32.4	33.6	34.6
10-19	95.2	99.4	104.8	96.4	104.6	108.2	107.8
20-29	187.8	196.9	199.2	212.9	205.4	211.4	214.5
30-34	68.7	67.2	71.0	77.6	78.3	77.2	76.6
35-39	669.1	701.2	702.8	729.7	729.2	734.3	762.5
40-44	349.3	357.7	363.7	384.4	374.6	384.1	375.2
45 & over	231.5	228.2	236.5	247.7	242.1	232.6	223.9
Variable hours ¹	203.0	225.6	219.4	217.3	214.0	216.7	221.7
Total persons	1,836.2	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>37.0</i>	<i>36.9</i>	<i>36.9</i>	<i>37.2</i>	<i>36.9</i>	<i>36.6</i>	<i>36.5</i>

¹ Includes 'not stated'.

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

'000

Employment status	Mar-May 04	Dec-Feb 05	Mar-May 05	Jun-Aug 05	Sep-Nov 05	Dec-Feb 06	Mar-May 06
Males							
Self employed (with paid employees)	85.6	90.0	90.4	91.8	89.3	90.6	92.6
Self employed (with no paid employees)	177.0	177.5	177.2	178.0	173.8	177.1	177.4
Employee	796.2	824.1	835.9	869.0	871.8	877.8	887.8
Assisting relative	6.4	6.7	6.6	7.5	5.6	4.4	4.2
Total males	1,065.2	1,098.3	1,110.1	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8	1,162.0
Females							
Self employed (with paid employees)	20.5	20.5	19.8	18.9	17.9	18.5	18.4
Self employed (with no paid employees)	32.5	31.1	33.8	31.3	32.8	32.3	31.4
Employee	710.9	751.0	758.4	785.8	781.6	790.1	797.7
Assisting relative	7.1	7.5	7.2	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.4
Total females	771.0	810.1	819.1	843.5	840.1	848.3	855.0
All persons							
Self employed (with paid employees)	106.1	110.5	110.2	110.7	107.2	109.1	111.0
Self employed (with no paid employees)	209.5	208.6	211.0	209.4	206.6	209.3	208.9
Employee	1,507.1	1,575.1	1,594.2	1,654.7	1,653.4	1,667.9	1,685.5
Assisting relative	13.5	14.2	13.7	15.0	13.4	11.8	11.6
Total persons	1,836.2	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0

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					
Mar-May 2004	473.8	22.3	496.1	4.5	58.8
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
Mar-May 2006	515.9	24.2	540.1	4.5	60.4
Southern and Eastern					
Mar-May 2004	1,367.3	61.9	1,429.2	4.3	60.7
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
Mar-May 2006	1,501.1	67.1	1,568.2	4.3	63.3
State					
Mar-May 2004	1,836.2	84.2	1,920.3	4.4	60.0
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
Mar-May 2006	2,017.0	91.4	2,108.3	4.3	62.6

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	Mar-May 2004	189.7	10.5	200.2	5.2	57.2
	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
	Mar-May 2006	205.2	10.8	216.0	5.0	59.1
Midland	Mar-May 2004	102.9	5.0	107.9	4.6	59.2
	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
	Mar-May 2006	115.2	4.8	120.0	4.0	61.3
West	Mar-May 2004	176.2	6.8	183.0	3.7	58.4
	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
	Mar-May 2006	195.5	8.6	204.1	4.2	61.2
Dublin	Mar-May 2004	550.2	24.7	574.9	4.3	62.0
	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
	Mar-May 2006	595.4	29.7	625.2	4.8	64.8
Mid-East	Mar-May 2004	204.2	6.7	210.9	3.2	62.8
	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
	Mar-May 2006	225.6	7.8	233.4	3.3	64.6
Mid-West	Mar-May 2004	156.7	8.3	165.0	5.0	60.5
	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
	Mar-May 2006	174.2	7.1	181.3	3.9	63.5
South-East	Mar-May 2004	192.2	10.5	202.6	5.2	58.9
	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
	Mar-May 2006	213.6	11.3	224.9	5.0	61.5
South-West	Mar-May 2004	264.1	11.6	275.7	4.2	58.0
	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
	Mar-May 2006	292.3	11.2	303.5	3.7	60.9
State	Mar-May 2004	1,836.2	84.2	1,920.3	4.4	60.0
	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
	Mar-May 2006	2,017.0	91.4	2,108.3	4.3	62.6

¹ See Background Notes.

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

and marital status, March-May 2006									%
Marital status	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Single	30.3	79.7	92.0	87.3	74.2	57.4	45.8	15.9	70.7
Married	*	97.9	96.1	96.2	92.7	81.0	61.4	16.1	77.2
Separated or divorced	*	*	88.6	91.2	80.1	66.0	42.3	7.3	71.1
Widowed	*	*	*	95.5	79.0	66.6	54.2	6.7	22.7
Total males	30.2	79.9	93.2	93.9	89.0	76.4	58.3	14.5	72.8
Females									
Single	22.8	69.1	83.2	76.9	69.7	61.3	40.5	4.8	61.3
Married	*	59.7	71.3	64.0	62.4	47.1	29.9	5.4	52.4
Separated or divorced	*	*	62.2	67.0	70.4	52.5	42.8	10.6	60.4
Widowed	*	*	84.1	67.7	64.4	41.6	27.8	2.7	11.2
Total females	22.8	68.8	78.5	66.7	64.1	48.6	31.2	4.2	52.5
All persons									
Single	26.6	74.5	88.0	82.8	72.3	58.9	43.7	11.1	66.4
Married	*	71.2	82.4	80.0	77.8	64.5	46.3	11.4	65.0
Separated or divorced	*	*	70.7	75.2	73.9	57.7	42.5	9.1	64.4
Widowed	*	*	86.9	76.2	67.9	48.2	34.4	3.5	13.6
Total persons	26.6	74.4	86.0	80.4	76.6	62.6	44.8	8.7	62.6

* 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									
Mar-May 2004	27.0	76.1	92.5	93.1	89.1	75.5	54.9	13.7	70.9
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
Mar-May 2006	30.2	79.9	93.2	93.9	89.0	76.4	58.3	14.5	72.8
Females									
Mar-May 2004	20.0	66.0	75.6	65.9	60.2	42.1	24.8	3.1	49.4
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
Mar-May 2006	22.8	68.8	78.5	66.7	64.1	48.6	31.2	4.2	52.5
All persons									
Mar-May 2004	23.6	71.1	84.1	79.5	74.7	59.0	40.0	7.7	60.0
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
Mar-May 2006	26.6	74.4	86.0	80.4	76.6	62.6	44.8	8.7	62.6

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									
Mar-May 2004	41.6	129.5	300.9	271.3	221.3	82.1	45.9	27.0	1,119.6
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
Mar-May 2006	45.5	139.0	341.7	289.1	231.2	87.2	53.3	30.1	1,217.2
Females									
Mar-May 2004	29.4	111.2	245.8	192.5	149.1	44.6	20.5	7.8	800.8
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
Mar-May 2006	32.7	117.6	278.4	202.6	165.9	54.6	28.4	11.0	891.1
All persons									
Mar-May 2004	71.0	240.8	546.7	463.8	370.3	126.6	66.4	34.7	1,920.3
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
Mar-May 2006	78.2	256.7	620.0	491.7	397.1	141.8	81.7	41.1	2,108.3

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									
Mar-May 2004	36.6	119.8	285.1	260.4	212.2	79.5	44.7	26.8	1,065.2
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
Mar-May 2006	40.3	128.0	324.8	279.3	222.6	84.4	52.6	30.0	1,162.0
Females									
Mar-May 2004	25.8	104.5	237.2	186.3	145.5	43.9	20.2	7.6	771.0
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
Mar-May 2006	28.7	109.8	267.7	195.6	160.9	53.2	28.1	11.0	855.0
All persons									
Mar-May 2004	62.4	224.2	522.3	446.7	357.7	123.5	64.9	34.5	1,836.2
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
Mar-May 2006	69.0	237.8	592.4	474.9	383.6	137.6	80.7	41.0	2,017.0

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								
Mar-May 2004	23.8	70.3	87.6	89.4	85.4	73.2	53.5	75.2
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
Mar-May 2006	26.8	73.6	88.6	90.7	85.7	74.0	57.5	77.3
Females								
Mar-May 2004	17.6	62.0	73.0	63.7	58.8	41.5	24.4	55.8
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
Mar-May 2006	20.0	64.2	75.5	64.4	62.2	47.4	30.9	58.8
All persons								
Mar-May 2004	20.7	66.2	80.3	76.5	72.1	57.6	39.1	65.5
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
Mar-May 2006	23.5	69.0	82.1	77.6	73.9	60.8	44.2	68.1

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									
Mar-May 2004	5.0	9.8	15.8	10.8	9.1	2.5	1.2	*	54.4
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
Mar-May 2006	5.2	11.0	16.9	9.8	8.6	2.8	0.7	*	55.2
Females									
Mar-May 2004	3.6	6.8	8.5	6.2	3.5	0.6	0.3	*	29.8
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
Mar-May 2006	4.0	7.8	10.7	7.0	5.0	1.4	0.3	*	36.1
All persons									
Mar-May 2004	8.6	16.5	24.4	17.1	12.6	3.2	1.5	0.3	84.2
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
Mar-May 2006	9.2	18.8	27.6	16.8	13.5	4.2	1.0	*	91.4

* 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									
Mar-May 2004	12.1	7.5	5.3	4.0	4.1	3.1	2.5	*	4.9
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
Mar-May 2006	11.5	7.9	4.9	3.4	3.7	3.2	1.4	*	4.5
Females									
Mar-May 2004	12.2	6.1	3.5	3.2	2.4	1.4	1.7	*	3.7
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
Mar-May 2006	12.2	6.7	3.8	3.5	3.0	2.5	0.9	*	4.1
All persons									
Mar-May 2004	12.1	6.9	4.5	3.7	3.4	2.5	2.3	0.8	4.4
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
Mar-May 2006	11.8	7.3	4.5	3.4	3.4	3.0	1.2	*	4.3

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)									
Mar-May 2004	0.6	4.8	128.8	219.0	192.3	81.7	58.5	99.2	784.9
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
Mar-May 2006	0.5	5.3	129.1	221.6	196.4	84.0	66.4	107.4	810.6
of which In labour force ('000)									
Mar-May 2004	*	2.3	84.4	138.3	112.3	33.4	13.0	3.7	387.5
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
Mar-May 2006	*	3.2	92.1	141.8	122.6	39.6	19.9	5.8	424.9
of which In employment ('000)									
Mar-May 2004	*	2.0	82.6	134.9	110.0	32.9	12.9	3.7	378.8
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
Mar-May 2006	*	2.9	89.2	137.7	119.4	38.7	19.7	5.8	413.5
Participation rates (%)									
Mar-May 2004	*	47.5	65.5	63.1	58.4	40.8	22.2	3.8	49.4
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
Mar-May 2006	*	59.7	71.3	64.0	62.4	47.1	29.9	5.4	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	%	%
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
Mar-May 2006	2,108.3	2,017.0	91.4	29.6	4.3	1.4

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

'000

Duration of unemployment(ILO)	Mar- May-04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May-06
Males							
Less than 1 year	33.9	30.3	31.7	36.1	33.4	32.9	33.8
1 year and over	20.2	21.0	21.2	21.6	20.7	19.7	21.1
Not stated	0.3	*	0.3	0.3	*	*	0.3
Total males	54.4	51.5	53.2	58.0	54.3	52.8	55.2
Females							
Less than 1 year	23.5	23.8	26.1	32.3	30.0	28.9	27.7
1 year and over	6.2	6.7	6.3	6.5	6.9	6.6	8.4
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total females	29.8	30.6	32.4	38.8	37.0	35.4	36.1
All persons							
Less than 1 year	57.4	54.1	57.7	68.4	63.5	61.7	61.5
1 year and over	26.3	27.8	27.6	28.1	27.6	26.2	29.6
Not stated	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	*	*	0.3
Total persons	84.2	82.1	85.6	96.7	91.3	88.2	91.4

* 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 Mar-May 2005				QNHS Mar-May 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	11.5	13.9	6.3	31.7	11.9	15.9	6.1	33.8
1 year and over	4.1	11.1	6.1	21.2	4.3	10.7	6.2	21.1
Not stated	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	0.3
Total males	15.7	24.9	12.6	53.2	16.2	26.7	12.3	55.2
Females								
Less than 1 year	9.0	12.1	5.0	26.1	9.5	13.7	4.4	27.7
1 year and over	1.9	2.7	1.7	6.3	2.3	4.0	2.2	8.4
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total females	10.9	14.9	6.7	32.4	11.8	17.7	6.6	36.1
All persons								
Less than 1 year	20.4	26.0	11.3	57.7	21.4	29.6	10.5	61.5
1 year and over	6.0	13.8	7.7	27.6	6.6	14.6	8.4	29.6
Not stated	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	0.3
Total persons	26.6	39.8	19.2	85.6	28.1	44.4	18.9	91.4

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

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

'000

ILO Economic Status	Mar- May 04	Jun- Aug 04	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06
In labour force	1,920.3	1,987.5	1,979.7	1,990.5	2,014.8	2,086.5	2,071.9	2,086.3	2,108.3
In employment:	1,836.2	1,893.6	1,894.1	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0
full-time	1,525.0	1,576.2	1,577.6	1,581.0	1,597.5	1,647.0	1,639.8	1,654.7	1,665.4
part-time:	311.1	317.4	316.6	327.4	331.7	342.8	340.8	343.4	351.6
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed</i> ¹	307.4	313.4	313.6	324.3	327.7	339.3	336.4	339.2	347.4
<i>part-time, underemployed</i> ¹	3.7	4.0	2.9	3.0	4.0	3.5	4.4	4.2	4.1
Unemployed:	84.2	93.9	85.6	82.1	85.6	96.7	91.3	88.2	91.4
seeking full-time work	71.7	80.1	72.2	69.1	71.0	80.2	74.2	72.7	76.5
seeking part-time work	12.4	13.8	13.4	13.0	14.7	16.5	17.0	15.5	14.9
Not in labour force	1,280.3	1,230.9	1,266.0	1,272.5	1,262.6	1,215.1	1,260.2	1,265.9	1,262.0
Marginally attached to the labour force:	10.0	13.4	11.3	12.1	9.1	13.6	9.8	10.1	9.8
Discouraged workers	8.1	10.8	8.4	9.3	7.0	10.9	7.4	8.0	7.7
Passive jobseekers	1.9	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.1	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.0
Others:	1,270.3	1,217.5	1,254.7	1,260.4	1,253.5	1,201.5	1,250.3	1,255.8	1,252.2
Persons not in education, who want work ²	53.3	56.5	56.1	56.5	53.9	56.5	58.4	60.5	57.0
Persons in education, who want work ²	35.3	25.0	27.8	29.4	31.8	24.9	26.6	32.0	34.7
All other persons	1,181.7	1,135.9	1,170.8	1,174.4	1,167.9	1,120.1	1,165.3	1,163.3	1,160.5
Total persons aged 15 or over	3,200.6	3,218.4	3,245.7	3,262.9	3,277.4	3,301.6	3,332.1	3,352.2	3,370.3

¹ See Background Notes.

² 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
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
Mar-May 2006	4.7	7.3	7.5

%

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	Mar-May 04	Dec-Feb 05	Mar-May 05	Jun-Aug 05	Sep-Nov 05	Dec-Feb 06	Mar-May 06
Males							
At work	1,038.5	1,068.5	1,080.6	1,101.1	1,109.8	1,119.6	1,130.4
Unemployed	81.1	78.9	77.1	80.6	80.9	80.2	80.3
Student	179.0	177.7	176.8	163.1	169.0	169.7	169.7
Home duties	4.5	5.4	5.1	6.0	5.2	5.0	5.1
Retired	206.9	210.1	208.7	210.9	211.9	213.3	213.0
Others	68.7	70.7	72.5	71.3	72.0	71.4	74.1
Total males	1,578.7	1,611.3	1,620.9	1,633.0	1,648.8	1,659.1	1,672.6
Females							
At work	731.9	767.2	776.8	789.5	794.4	806.0	810.4
Unemployed	31.6	31.2	32.5	39.1	37.5	36.2	35.1
Student	198.4	196.4	193.6	182.8	193.6	196.6	199.3
Home duties	551.9	546.5	539.4	539.8	538.5	535.0	530.3
Retired	70.3	71.4	72.2	74.8	76.9	76.9	78.3
Others	37.9	39.1	42.1	42.5	42.4	42.3	44.4
Total females	1,621.9	1,651.7	1,656.6	1,668.6	1,683.3	1,693.1	1,697.7
All persons							
At work	1,770.4	1,835.7	1,857.4	1,890.6	1,904.3	1,925.6	1,940.8
Unemployed	112.6	110.1	109.7	119.8	118.4	116.4	115.4
Student	377.4	374.1	370.4	346.0	362.6	366.2	369.0
Home duties	556.4	551.9	544.6	545.8	543.7	540.0	535.4
Retired	277.2	281.5	280.9	285.6	288.7	290.2	291.3
Others	106.6	109.7	114.6	113.8	114.4	113.7	118.4
Total persons	3,200.6	3,262.9	3,277.4	3,301.6	3,332.1	3,352.2	3,370.3

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, March-May 2006

'000

ILO Economic Status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
Males							
In employment:	1,126.8	1.4	27.6	*	4.2	1.9	1,162.0
full-time	1,077.5	1.0	2.1	*	0.4	1.0	1,082.2
part-time:	49.2	0.3	25.5	*	3.8	0.9	79.8
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed¹</i>	47.7	*	25.5	*	3.7	0.9	78.0
<i>part-time, underemployed¹</i>	1.6	*	*	*	*	*	1.7
Unemployed:	0.8	50.4	1.7	*	0.4	1.7	55.2
seeking full-time work	0.8	49.5	1.1	*	*	1.5	53.1
seeking part-time work	*	0.9	0.6	*	*	*	2.1
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.2	3.3	0.5	*	0.5	0.3	5.8
Others	1.7	25.3	139.9	4.6	207.9	70.2	449.6
Total males aged 15 or over	1,130.4	80.3	169.7	5.1	213.0	74.1	1,672.6
Females							
In employment:	806.2	0.6	35.9	9.1	1.3	1.9	855.0
full-time	577.7	*	2.4	1.5	*	1.2	583.2
part-time:	228.5	0.4	33.5	7.6	1.2	0.6	271.8
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed¹</i>	226.1	0.4	33.4	7.6	1.2	0.6	269.4
<i>part-time, underemployed¹</i>	2.4	*	*	*	*	*	2.4
Unemployed:	0.5	20.6	2.2	11.7	*	0.8	36.1
seeking full-time work	0.4	17.0	1.1	4.4	*	0.5	23.3
seeking part-time work	*	3.6	1.1	7.3	*	0.4	12.8
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.2	1.1	0.3	1.0	*	*	3.9
Others	2.5	12.8	160.9	508.5	76.6	41.5	802.7
Total females aged 15 or over	810.4	35.1	199.3	530.3	78.3	44.4	1,697.7
All persons							
In employment:	1,933.0	2.0	63.5	9.3	5.5	3.8	2,017.0
full-time	1,655.2	1.3	4.5	1.6	0.5	2.3	1,665.4
part-time:	277.7	0.7	58.9	7.7	5.0	1.5	351.6
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed¹</i>	273.8	0.6	58.9	7.7	4.9	1.5	347.4
<i>part-time, underemployed¹</i>	3.9	*	*	*	*	*	4.1
Unemployed:	1.3	71.0	4.0	11.9	0.7	2.5	91.4
seeking full-time work	1.1	66.4	2.2	4.5	*	1.9	76.5
seeking part-time work	*	4.5	1.7	7.4	0.4	0.6	14.9
Marginally attached to the labour force	2.4	4.4	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.4	9.8
Others	4.1	38.1	300.8	513.1	284.5	111.7	1,252.2
Total persons aged 15 or over	1,940.8	115.4	369.0	535.4	291.3	118.4	3,370.3

¹ See Background Notes.

* 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	March-May 2005					March-May 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	130.8	13.8	144.7	9.5	59.7	127.4	12.6	140.0	9.0	58.3
Lower secondary	211.7	14.9	226.6	6.6	73.0	215.5	13.9	229.4	6.1	73.4
Higher secondary	295.4	11.8	307.2	3.8	82.7	312.2	13.5	325.7	4.1	85.4
Post leaving cert	118.2	4.4	122.7	3.6	93.0	125.3	4.3	129.6	3.3	93.6
Third level non degree	99.5	2.5	102.0	2.5	91.9	106.4	3.5	110.0	3.2	93.0
Third level degree or above	195.2	4.5	199.7	2.3	93.0	207.9	5.0	212.9	2.3	93.2
Other	29.7	1.2	30.9	3.9	84.7	37.2	2.4	39.6	6.1	87.2
Total males aged 15 to 64	1,080.5	53.2	1,133.7	4.7	79.9	1,132.0	55.1	1,187.1	4.6	81.0
Females aged 15 to 64										
Primary or below	54.4	4.0	58.4	6.8	28.7	52.2	3.8	56.0	6.8	28.2
Lower secondary	101.0	7.1	108.1	6.6	41.0	101.0	7.5	108.5	6.9	41.5
Higher secondary	238.4	9.1	247.5	3.7	62.7	239.8	10.9	250.7	4.3	63.6
Post leaving cert	95.6	3.7	99.2	3.7	73.9	94.4	5.2	99.6	5.2	74.2
Third level non degree	117.4	3.3	120.7	2.7	80.1	120.0	3.5	123.6	2.8	78.8
Third level degree or above	187.0	4.0	191.0	2.1	85.8	217.3	4.2	221.5	1.9	85.9
Other	16.9	1.1	18.0	6.1	61.6	19.3	0.9	20.2	4.5	63.7
Total females aged 15 to 64	810.7	32.3	843.0	3.8	60.3	844.0	36.1	880.1	4.1	61.3
All persons aged 15 to 64										
Primary or below	185.3	17.8	203.1	8.8	45.6	179.6	16.4	196.0	8.4	44.7
Lower secondary	312.7	22.0	334.7	6.6	58.3	316.5	21.4	337.9	6.3	58.9
Higher secondary	533.8	21.0	554.7	3.8	72.4	552.0	24.3	576.4	4.2	74.3
Post leaving cert	213.8	8.1	221.9	3.7	83.3	219.7	9.6	229.2	4.2	84.0
Third level non degree	216.9	5.8	222.7	2.6	85.2	226.4	7.1	233.5	3.0	84.9
Third level degree or above	382.1	8.6	390.7	2.2	89.3	425.3	9.2	434.4	2.1	89.3
Other	46.6	2.2	48.9	4.5	74.4	56.5	3.2	59.7	5.4	77.4
Total persons aged 15 to 64	1,891.2	85.5	1,976.7	4.3	70.2	1,976.0	91.2	2,067.2	4.4	71.3

Table 24 Estimated *adult*¹ members of family units classified by composition of family unit, ILO Economic Status and sex, March-May 2006

'000

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	95.9	88.7	184.7	2.8	2.8	5.6	3.7	9.2	12.9	102.4	100.8	203.2
Wife/female partner aged 45 to 64	73.3	55.4	128.7	1.7	1.4	3.1	46.5	61.4	107.9	121.5	118.2	239.6
Wife/female partner aged 65 or over	9.2	3.9	13.1	*	*	*	70.0	76.6	146.6	79.3	80.5	159.8
Total	178.4	148.0	326.4	4.6	4.2	8.8	120.2	147.2	267.4	303.1	299.5	602.6
Husband and wife (or couple) with children:												
At least 1 child aged under 5 and no child aged 15 or over	173.5	111.7	285.2	5.1	4.1	9.2	7.5	66.2	73.7	186.1	182.1	368.2
At least 1 child aged under 5 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	9.9	4.1	14.0	0.7	0.2	0.8	1.2	7.3	8.5	11.8	11.6	23.3
All children aged 5 to 14	76.8	48.7	125.6	1.5	2.3	3.8	3.4	28.9	32.2	81.7	79.9	161.6
No child aged under 5, at least 1 child aged 5 to 14 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	114.0	73.0	187.0	3.4	1.8	5.2	8.5	48.7	57.2	125.9	123.5	249.4
All children aged 15 or over	142.0	93.5	235.6	3.9	2.3	6.1	51.1	98.1	149.2	197.0	193.9	390.9
Total	516.3	331.1	847.4	14.6	10.6	25.2	71.6	249.2	320.8	602.5	590.9	1,193.4
Lone parent with children:												
At least 1 child aged under 5 and no child aged 15 or over	1.1	17.9	19.0	*	2.1	2.2	0.5	22.5	23.0	1.8	42.5	44.3
At least 1 child aged under 5 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	*	0.9	1.0	*	*	*	*	1.7	1.7	*	2.7	2.8
All children aged 5 to 14	1.0	15.8	16.8	*	1.9	1.9	0.4	8.7	9.1	1.4	26.4	27.8
No child aged under 5, at least 1 child aged 5 to 14 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	2.5	15.9	18.4	*	1.3	1.5	0.6	9.3	10.0	3.3	26.6	29.9
All children aged 15 or over	8.0	24.0	32.0	0.3	1.1	1.4	8.9	44.3	53.3	17.3	69.4	86.7
Total	12.7	74.5	87.3	0.7	6.4	7.1	10.4	86.6	97.0	23.9	167.6	191.4
Total	707.4	553.6	1,261.0	19.9	21.3	41.2	202.2	483.1	685.3	929.5	1,057.9	1,987.5

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 Labour Force Survey results classified by ILO Economic Status for persons aged 15 or over in EU member states¹

Region	Q1/2005					Q1/2006				
	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	215,449	195,213	20,234	56.8	9.4	217,976	198,586	19,388	57.1	8.9
EU-15	181,620	166,211	15,409	57.1	8.5	184,051	168,845	15,205	57.5	8.3
Eurozone ²	144,668	131,093	13,575	55.9	9.4	146,715	133,533	13,181	56.3	9.0
Belgium	4,611	4,217	394	53.3	8.5	4,606	4,207	399	52.8	8.7
Czech Republic	5,134	4,704	429	59.1	8.4	5,200	4,785	414	59.4	8.0
Denmark	2,887	2,721	166	65.7	5.7	2,899	2,768	130	65.5	4.5
Germany ³	40,750	36,056	4,694	58.3	11.5	41,108	36,663	4,445	58.6	10.8
Estonia	657	595	62	58.2	9.4	678	635	44	59.7	6.4
Greece	4,827	4,325	502	53.1	10.4	4,873	4,400	473	53.3	9.7
Spain	20,592	18,493	2,099	56.2	10.2	21,336	19,400	1,936	57.3	9.1
France ³	26,793	24,312	2,481	55.9	9.3	27,087	24,495	2,592	56.0	9.6
Ireland	1,991	1,908	82	61.0	4.1	2,086	1,998	88	62.2	4.2
Italy ³	24,383	22,373	2,011	49.1	8.2	24,666	22,685	1,980	49.4	8.0
Cyprus	364	344	20	63.2	5.5	373	351	22	63.3	5.9
Latvia	1,127	1,015	112	57.4	9.9	1,146	1,057	89	58.3	7.8
Lithuania	1,611	1,446	165	56.7	10.2	1,586	1,484	102	55.8	6.4
Luxembourg ³	203	194	9	55.6	4.4	203	194	9	55.6	4.4
Hungary	4,165	3,871	294	49.7	7.1	4,209	3,885	324	50.2	7.7
Malta	161	150	11	50.0	6.8	164	151	13	50.2	7.8
Netherlands	8,476	8,028	448	64.7	5.3	8,552	8,165	387	65.1	4.5
Austria	3,963	3,756	207	58.5	5.2	4,042	3,818	224	59.1	5.5
Poland	16,966	13,767	3,199	54.3	18.9	16,897	14,189	2,708	53.9	16.0
Portugal	5,507	5,094	413	61.9	7.5	5,557	5,127	430	62.2	7.7
Slovenia	1,002	934	68	58.6	6.8	1,016	946	70	59.0	6.9
Slovak Republic	2,642	2,176	465	59.6	17.6	2,657	2,259	398	59.1	15.0
Finland	2,572	2,337	235	59.8	9.1	2,600	2,381	219	60.1	8.4
Sweden	4,529	4,219	310	60.9	6.8	4,678	4,310	368	62.4	7.9
United Kingdom	29,536	28,178	1,358	62.0	4.6	29,761	28,235	1,526	62.2	5.1

Source: Eurostat and Quarterly National Household Survey.

Note: ¹ Trends in some member states may be affected by changes in methodology.

² Eurozone consists of EU15 states with the exceptions of Denmark, Sweden and United Kingdom.

³ Q1 2006 figures for Germany, France, Italy and Luxembourg relate to Q4 2005 as updated detail is not available at present.

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, March-May, 2005 and 2006

Nationality	ILO Economic Status				'000
	In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Not economically active	Total
Q2 2006					
Irish ¹	1,818.9	77.6	1,896.5	1,190.5	3,087.0
Non-Irish nationals	198.1	13.7	211.9	71.5	283.3
of which:					
United Kingdom	40.1	3.1	43.2	26.0	69.2
EU15 excl. Irl. & UK	27.5	1.5	29.0	6.8	35.8
Accession states EU15 to EU25	79.8	4.6	84.4	7.5	91.8
Other	50.7	4.5	55.3	31.2	86.5
Total persons	2,017.0	91.4	2,108.3	1,262.0	3,370.3
Q2 2005					
Irish ¹	1,779.0	75.6	1,854.6	1,195.1	3,049.7
Non-Irish nationals	150.3	10.1	160.2	67.5	227.7
of which:					
United Kingdom	37.5	2.3	39.8	23.9	63.7
EU15 excl. Irl. & UK	20.9	1.0	21.8	7.1	28.9
Accession states EU15 to EU25	47.3	3.2	50.4	5.2	55.6
Other	44.6	3.6	48.2	31.3	79.5
Total persons	1,929.2	85.6	2,014.8	1,262.6	3,277.4
Year on year changes					
Irish ¹	+ 39.9	+ 2.0	+ 41.9	- 4.6	+ 37.3
Non-Irish nationals	+ 47.8	+ 3.6	+ 51.7	+ 4.0	+ 55.6
of which:					
United Kingdom	+ 2.6	+ 0.8	+ 3.4	+ 2.1	+ 5.5
EU15 excl. Irl. & UK	+ 6.6	+ 0.5	+ 7.2	- 0.3	+ 6.9
Accession states EU15 to EU25	+ 32.5	+ 1.4	+ 34.0	+ 2.3	+ 36.2
Other	+ 6.1	+ 0.9	+ 7.1	- 0.1	+ 7.0
Total persons	+ 87.8	+ 5.8	+ 93.5	- 0.6	+ 92.9

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, March-May, 2005 and 2006

Nationality	NACE Economic Sector											'000
	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	Total
Q2 2006												
Irish ¹	110.3	256.3	230.2	261.4	87.2	111.9	239.6	104.1	128.7	181.1	108.1	1,818.9
Non-Irish nationals	4.4	32.2	32.5	23.1	29.1	8.9	27.6	0.5	7.0	20.2	12.5	198.1
<i>of which:</i>												
<i>United Kingdom</i>	0.7	5.7	5.4	5.5	2.6	2.4	7.2	0.5	2.9	4.3	2.9	40.1
<i>EU15 excl. Irl. & UK</i>	0.5	3.7	1.4	2.2	3.5	2.2	7.8	*	1.9	2.2	1.9	27.5
<i>Accession states EU15 to EU25</i>	2.7	18.4	21.4	10.2	11.4	2.7	6.2	*	0.5	2.0	4.3	79.8
<i>Other</i>	0.5	4.4	4.3	5.2	11.6	1.6	6.4	*	1.7	11.7	3.4	50.7
Total persons	114.5	288.5	262.7	284.4	116.3	120.7	267.3	105.1	135.6	201.2	120.6	2,017.0
Q2 2005												
Irish ¹	109.0	269.0	220.6	248.9	89.2	111.4	236.4	97.1	116.7	173.7	107.1	1,779.0
Non-Irish nationals	4.8	25.3	21.8	18.0	21.9	6.8	20.6	1.1	6.5	14.3	9.3	150.3
<i>of which:</i>												
<i>United Kingdom</i>	0.7	5.5	5.0	4.5	2.0	2.7	5.7	0.8	2.3	4.8	3.6	37.5
<i>EU15 excl. Irl. & UK</i>	0.7	2.5	0.7	1.9	3.0	1.1	5.8	*	2.1	1.1	1.9	20.9
<i>Accession states EU15 to EU25</i>	2.9	10.3	12.2	5.6	7.8	1.3	3.5	*	0.3	1.0	2.4	47.3
<i>Other</i>	0.5	7.0	3.9	6.0	9.1	1.7	5.6	0.3	1.8	7.4	1.4	44.6
Total persons	113.7	294.2	242.4	266.9	111.0	118.2	257.1	98.2	123.1	188.0	116.4	1,929.2
Year on year changes												
Irish ¹	+ 1.3	- 12.7	+ 9.6	+ 12.5	- 2.0	+ 0.5	+ 3.2	+ 7.0	+ 12.0	+ 7.4	+ 1.0	+ 39.9
Non-Irish nationals	- 0.4	+ 6.9	+ 10.7	+ 5.1	+ 7.2	+ 2.1	+ 7.0	- 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 5.9	+ 3.2	+ 47.8
<i>of which:</i>												
<i>United Kingdom</i>	0.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.0	+ 0.6	- 0.3	+ 1.5	- 0.3	+ 0.6	- 0.5	- 0.7	+ 2.6
<i>EU15 excl. Irl. & UK</i>	- 0.2	+ 1.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 1.1	+ 2.0	*	- 0.2	+ 1.1	0.0	+ 6.6
<i>Accession states EU15 to EU25</i>	- 0.2	+ 8.1	+ 9.2	+ 4.6	+ 3.6	+ 1.4	+ 2.7	*	+ 0.2	+ 1.0	+ 1.9	+ 32.5
<i>Other</i>	+ 0.0	- 2.6	+ 0.4	- 0.8	+ 2.5	- 0.1	+ 0.8	*	- 0.1	+ 4.3	+ 2.0	+ 6.1
Total persons	+ 0.8	- 5.7	+ 20.3	+ 17.5	+ 5.3	+ 2.5	+ 10.2	+ 6.9	+ 12.5	+ 13.2	+ 4.2	+ 87.8

* 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
Midland	Sligo
	Laoighis
	Longford
	Offaly
West	Westmeath
	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
South-East	North Tipperary
	Carlow
	Kilkenny
	South Tipperary
South-West	Waterford City
	Waterford County
	Wexford
	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
Q4 2005	Special Saving Incentive Accounts (SSIAs)
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
Q1 2006	ICT household survey
Q2 2006	Transition from work into retirement
Q3 2006	Social capital and sport
Q4 2006	Crime and victimisation