

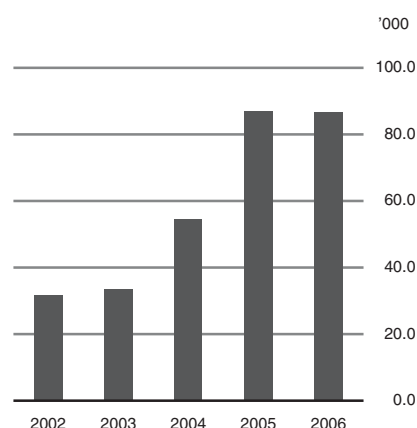


Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

22 February 2007

Quarterly National Household Survey Quarter 4 2006

**Annual average employment increases
2002-2006**



ILO Labour Force

	In Employment	Unemployed	Labour Force
	'000		
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
Jun-Aug 2006	2,073.3	104.8	2,178.1
Sep-Nov 2006	2,066.1	88.7	2,154.8
<i>Change in quarter</i>	-7.2	-16.1	-23.3
<i>Change in year</i>	+85.5	-2.6	+82.9

Construction and Health sectors fuel employment growth

There were 2,066,100 persons in employment in the fourth quarter of 2006, representing an increase of 85,500 or 4.3% in the year. This compares to an annual growth rate of 4.2% in the previous quarter and to a rate of 4.6% in the fourth quarter of 2005. The strong growth in the *Construction* (+28,400) and the *Health* (+18,700) sectors accounted for just over 55% of the annual increase in the numbers employed. *See tables 1, 2b and graph opposite.*

Employment grew by an average of 86,700 persons or 4.4% in 2006. This compares with an average growth rate of 4.7% in 2005. The number of males in employment in 2006 increased by an average of 48,600 or 4.3% while the number of females increased by an average of 38,000 or 4.6%.

There were 88,700 persons unemployed in the fourth quarter of 2006 representing a seasonal decline of 16,100 on the quarter and an annual decline of 2,600 on the same quarter last year. When seasonal factors are taken into account there was a fall of 4,800 over the quarter. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 4.4% to 4.2% between the third and fourth quarters of 2006. *See tables 1 & 3.*

Non-Irish nationals are tentatively estimated to have accounted for a little over 44,000 or almost 52% of the annual increase in the numbers in employment. While the number of unemployed persons fell year on year (-2,600), it is estimated that there was an increase of 2,500 in the number of unemployed foreign nationals. *See table A1 in the annex.*

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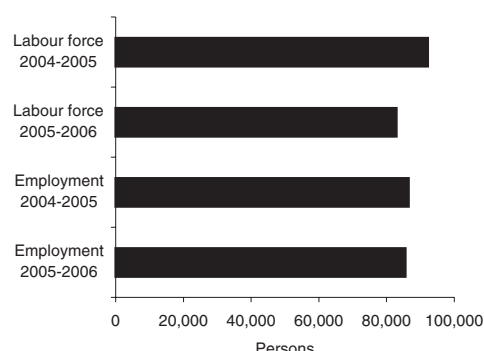
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**Employment and labour force growth
2004- 2006**



In the year to the fourth quarter of 2006 the labour force grew by 82,900 (+4.0%). The total number of persons participating in the labour force reached 2,154,800, or 63.0% of all persons aged 15 years and over in the fourth quarter 2006. This compares with a participation rate of 62.2% in the same quarter last year. Male and female participation rates increased over the year from 72.5% to 73.1% and 52.1% to 53.0% respectively. *See table 1.*

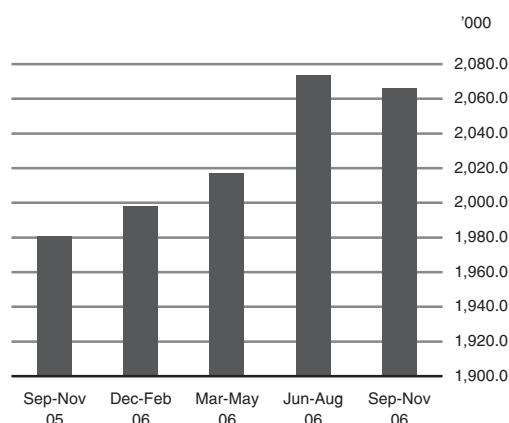
The latest available figures for all 25 EU member states, which are for the third quarter of 2006, show that between the third quarters of 2005 and 2006 Ireland's employment level grew by 4.2% while its labour force grew by 4.4 %. The comparable figures for the EU-25 were 1.9% and 1.0% respectively. *See table 25 and graph opposite.*

Construction sector accounts for almost 60% of male employment growth

Employment in the *Construction* sector increased by 28,400 (+11.2%) to 281,600 in the year to the fourth quarter of 2006. The growth in the *Construction* sector was dominated by males (+27,900) and accounted for just over 60% of the total annual increase in the number of males at work. *See table 2b.*

The *Health* sector also showed strong growth over the year, increasing by 18,700 or 9.8%. In contrast to the *Construction* sector, the increase of 16,200 in the number of females at work in the *Health* sector accounted for almost 87% of the total growth in the sector. The *Health* sector was also one of the few sectors to show any significant increases in part-time employment (+6,300). *See table 2b.*

**Numbers in employment (ILO),
Quarter 4 2005 to Quarter 4 2006**



Strong growth was also recorded in the *Financial and other business services* sector (+15,000) and the *Education* sector (+11,700). All other areas in the services sector recorded employment growth over the year with the exception of the *Transport, storage and communication* and the *Other services* sectors, which declined marginally. The numbers employed in the *Other production industries* sector showed moderate growth of 3,900 (+1.4%). *See table 2b.*

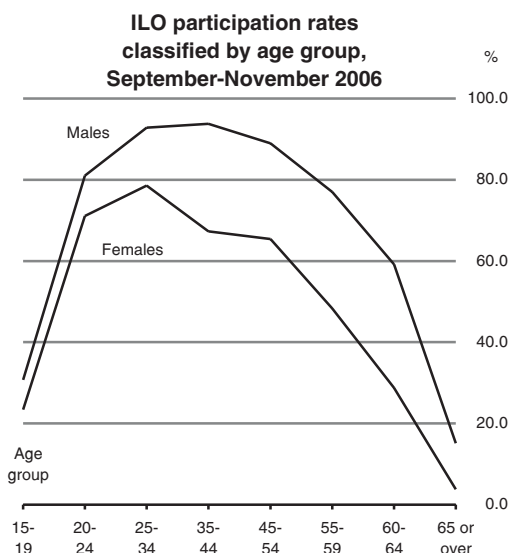
The numbers employed in all occupational categories with the exception of *Managers and administrators* (-300) and *Plant and machine operatives* (-1,700) increased over the year. The largest increases were in the *Professional* (+23,800), *Personal and protective services* (+17,800) many of whom were in the health and childcare occupations and *Associate professional and technical* (+13,100) occupational groups. *See table 4.*

There were 1,728,100 employees in the fourth quarter of 2006, an annual increase of 74,700. This comprised of an increase of 39,600 females and 35,200 males. The number of self employed persons increased by 12,100 to 325,900 in the year. This increase was dominated by an increase in the number of self employed males (+11,700). The number of persons assisting relatives decreased by 1,300 to 12,100. *See table 6.*

Demographic factors account for over 75% of labour force growth

Demographic factors such as the increase in the number of people of working age in the population continued to fuel labour force growth, accounting for over 63,000 of the 82,900 people who joined the labour force in the year to the fourth quarter of 2006. Net inward migration continued to be the main source of this demographic change accounting for an estimated 75% of the demographic increase. Over 52% of the demographic increase can be attributed to those aged 25-34, the age group most affected by inward migration.

Almost a quarter of the annual growth in the labour force, representing an increase of almost 20,000, was attributable to higher participation in the labour



market. All age groups, with the exception of 15-19 year olds, showed increases in labour force participation rates over the year. The most significant increases were in the 20-24 year age group, rising from 74.9% to 76.1%, and the 55-59 year age group, rising from 61.5% to 62.7%. *See table 9 and graph opposite.*

In absolute terms the largest increase in the labour force was for those persons aged 25-34, with an increase of almost 38,000 accounting for almost 46% of the total annual increase. The number of married women participating in the labour force increased over the year by 15,400 to 437,000, giving a participation rate of 52.6%. *See tables 1, 10 & 15.*

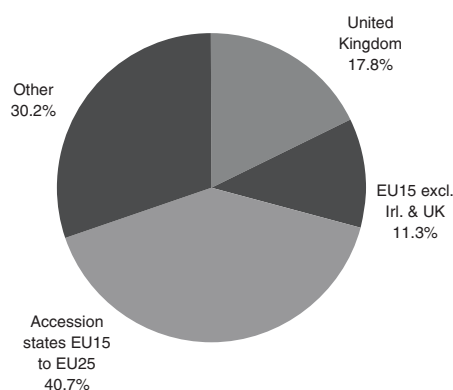
The broadest survey-based labour supply indicator, S3, which includes persons outside the labour force who show some interest in obtaining work as well as the unemployed, decreased from 7.7% in the fourth quarter of 2005 to 7.3% in the fourth quarter of 2006. *See tables 19 & 20.*

Over one-third of labour force growth attributable to migrants from the new EU Member States

Tentative estimates of the labour force status of Non-Irish nationals are presented in the Annex. There were an estimated 301,100 foreign nationals aged 15 years and over in the State in the fourth quarter of 2006. Of these, 215,500 were in employment while a further 14,300 were unemployed according to the ILO criteria. Nationals of the new EU Accession states were the fastest growing category (+30,400) accounting for over one-third (+28,300) of the overall growth in the labour force (+82,900). The number of persons from the new EU Accession states in the labour force was 93,600 in the fourth quarter of 2006. The number of Non-Irish nationals in the labour force from outside the EU also increased significantly from 51,500 to 69,300 over the year. *See table A1 in the annex and graph opposite.*

In the fourth quarter of 2006 Non-Irish nationals accounted for just over 10% of all persons aged 15 years and over in employment. Just over 28% of workers in the *Hotels & restaurants*, 13.4% of the *Construction* and 12.1% of the *Other production industries* sectors were foreign nationals. *See table A2 in the annex.*

Non-Irish nationals in the Labour Force, September-November 2006



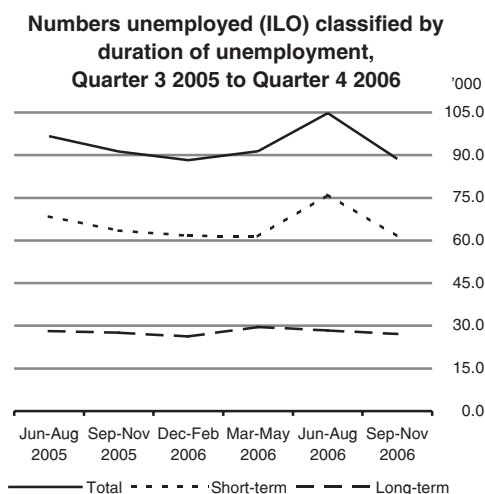
Employment rates continue to grow

The employment rate for all persons aged 15-64 was 68.7% in the fourth quarter of 2006, an increase of 0.9 percentage points on the 67.8% recorded in the same quarter last year. The employment rate for both males and females also increased over the year from 77.0% to 77.7% and 58.4% to 59.6% respectively. Strong employment rate growth was particularly evident for those aged 20-24 and persons aged 55 and over. The highest employment rate, 82.1%, was recorded in the 25-34 year age group where 88.2% of males and 75.7% of females were in employment. *See tables 11 & 12.*

Fall in the number of women unemployed

There were 54,200 males and 34,500 females unemployed in the fourth quarter of 2006. The number of unemployed males decreased slightly (-100) year on year while there was a decline of 2,500 in the number of unemployed females. *See table 1.*

There were declines in both short-term (-2,100) and long-term unemployment (-500) and the long-term unemployment rate remained unchanged at 1.3% over the year. *See tables 1, 16, 17, 18 and graph opposite.*



Regional comparisons

Employment grew by 24,800 (+4.9%) in the Border, Midland and Western region and by 60,700 (+4.1%) in the Southern and Eastern region in the year to the fourth quarter of 2006. There was a decline in the number of unemployed persons in the Southern and Eastern region (-1,900) and the Border, Midland and Western region (-600). *See table 7a.*

The participation rate in the Border, Midland and Western region increased from 60.1% to 61.1% between the fourth quarters of 2005 and 2006 while the rate in the Southern and Eastern region increased from 62.9% to 63.7% over the same period. *See table 7a.*

At NUTS3 level employment grew in all regions with the South-East (+7.5%) and the Border (+6.6%) showing the highest growth rates over the year. There was an annual increase of 24,000 (+4.1%) in the numbers in employment in the Dublin region. All regional data is 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 92,700 to 1,997,000 in the year to the fourth quarter of 2006. This compares to an increase of 76,300 in the year to the fourth quarter of 2005. In the year to quarter four 2006 the number of males describing themselves as "at work" increased by 47,400 and the number of females by 45,500. There was a decrease of 5,300 in the number of people describing themselves as "unemployed". The numbers describing themselves as on "home duties" showed a small increase of 3,600 over the year. *See table 21.*

The number of students decreased by 8,600 in the year to 354,000. In the fourth quarter of 2006, 16.6% of students had a job compared to 17.2% for the same quarter last year. This represented a decrease of 3,500 in the number of students "at work" over the year. *See tables 21 & 22.*

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

'000

ILO Economic Status	Sep- Nov 04	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06	Jun- Aug 06	Sep- Nov 06
Males							
In labour force	1,145.2	1,204.3	1,194.8	1,202.6	1,217.2	1,253.5	1,240.5
In employment:	1,092.4	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8	1,162.0	1,191.4	1,186.3
full-time	1,027.7	1,071.0	1,066.0	1,073.0	1,082.2	1,114.1	1,110.3
part-time:	64.7	75.3	74.6	76.9	79.8	77.4	76.0
of which: <i>part-time, not underemployed</i> ¹	63.6	73.6	72.3	75.0	78.0	75.8	74.5
<i>part-time, underemployed</i> ¹	1.0	1.7	2.3	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4
Unemployed:	52.8	58.0	54.3	52.8	55.2	62.1	54.2
seeking full-time work	50.8	54.3	50.7	50.5	53.1	58.3	51.7
seeking part-time work	2.0	3.6	3.5	2.3	2.1	3.8	2.5
Not in labour force	456.4	428.7	454.0	456.5	455.4	433.0	456.8
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	7.9	6.9	5.3	6.2	5.8	8.4	5.7
Others	448.5	421.8	448.6	450.3	449.6	424.6	451.1
Total males aged 15 or over	1,601.6	1,633.0	1,648.8	1,659.1	1,672.6	1,686.5	1,697.3
Unemployment rate %	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.5	5.0	4.4
Participation rate %	71.5	73.7	72.5	72.5	72.8	74.3	73.1
Females							
In labour force	834.5	882.2	877.1	883.8	891.1	924.6	914.3
In employment:	801.7	843.5	840.1	848.3	855.0	881.8	879.8
full-time	549.8	576.0	573.9	581.8	583.2	610.6	606.7
part-time:	251.9	267.5	266.2	266.5	271.8	271.2	273.1
of which: <i>part-time, not underemployed</i> ¹	250.0	265.7	264.1	264.2	269.4	269.2	271.0
<i>part-time, underemployed</i> ¹	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.2
Unemployed:	32.8	38.8	37.0	35.4	36.1	42.7	34.5
seeking full-time work	21.4	25.9	23.5	22.3	23.3	29.8	22.4
seeking part-time work	11.4	12.9	13.5	13.2	12.8	12.9	12.1
Not in labour force	809.6	786.4	806.2	809.4	806.6	787.4	810.3
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	3.4	6.7	4.5	3.9	3.9	7.1	4.3
Others	806.3	779.6	801.7	805.5	802.7	780.2	806.0
Total females aged 15 or over	1,644.1	1,668.6	1,683.3	1,693.1	1,697.7	1,711.9	1,724.6
Unemployment rate %	3.9	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.6	3.8
Participation rate %	50.8	52.9	52.1	52.2	52.5	54.0	53.0
All persons							
In labour force	1,979.7	2,086.5	2,071.9	2,086.3	2,108.3	2,178.1	2,154.8
In employment:	1,894.1	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0	2,073.3	2,066.1
full-time	1,577.5	1,647.0	1,639.8	1,654.7	1,665.4	1,724.7	1,717.0
part-time:	316.5	342.8	340.8	343.4	351.6	348.6	349.1
of which: <i>part-time, not underemployed</i> ¹	313.6	339.3	336.4	339.2	347.4	345.0	345.5
<i>part-time, underemployed</i> ¹	2.9	3.5	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.6	3.6
Unemployed:	85.6	96.7	91.3	88.2	91.4	104.8	88.7
seeking full-time work	72.2	80.2	74.2	72.7	76.5	88.1	74.2
seeking part-time work	13.4	16.5	17.0	15.5	14.9	16.7	14.6
Not in labour force	1,266.0	1,215.1	1,260.2	1,265.9	1,262.0	1,220.4	1,267.1
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	11.3	13.6	9.8	10.1	9.8	15.5	9.9
Others	1,254.8	1,201.5	1,250.3	1,255.8	1,252.2	1,204.8	1,257.1
Total persons aged 15 or over	3,245.7	3,301.6	3,332.1	3,352.2	3,370.3	3,398.4	3,421.8
Unemployment rate %	4.3	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.8	4.1
Participation rate %	61.0	63.2	62.2	62.2	62.6	64.1	63.0

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)	Sep- Nov 04	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06	Jun- Aug 06	Sep- Nov 06
Males							
A-B Agriculture	102.3	109.0	104.9	104.8	103.8	109.1	105.2
C-F Industry	429.6	447.0	446.0	443.7	454.0	473.8	476.9
G-Q Services	560.6	590.3	589.6	601.4	604.2	608.5	604.2
Females							
A-B Agriculture	10.2	10.6	10.4	10.7	10.7	12.5	10.7
C-F Industry	98.9	99.6	95.4	95.1	97.2	100.6	96.8
G-Q Services	692.6	733.2	734.4	742.5	747.0	768.7	772.3
All persons							
A-B Agriculture	112.5	119.6	115.3	115.5	114.5	121.7	115.8
C-F Industry	528.5	546.7	541.3	538.8	551.2	574.4	573.7
G-Q Services	1,253.2	1,323.5	1,324.0	1,343.8	1,351.2	1,377.2	1,376.5
Total persons	1,894.1	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0	2,073.3	2,066.1

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

'000

Economic sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Sep- Nov 04	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06	Jun- Aug 06	Sep- Nov 06
Males							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	102.3	109.0	104.9	104.8	103.8	109.1	105.2
C-E Other production industries	212.2	207.2	205.4	202.5	204.6	209.8	208.4
F Construction	217.4	239.8	240.6	241.1	249.4	263.9	268.5
G Wholesale and retail trade	134.6	142.1	141.5	143.5	143.7	147.7	146.8
H Hotels and restaurants	45.7	50.5	48.0	49.1	49.7	50.5	48.6
I Transport, storage and communication	90.5	91.2	91.9	91.3	91.8	97.7	89.8
J-K Financial and other business services	123.0	130.4	130.5	136.4	136.2	134.7	141.5
L Public administration and defence	46.7	50.0	50.2	51.3	51.5	49.8	52.0
M Education	35.0	35.0	36.3	37.6	38.9	34.6	37.7
N Health	33.4	32.8	32.5	33.7	34.9	38.1	35.0
O-Q Other services	51.6	58.2	58.7	58.5	57.6	55.5	52.8
Total males	1,092.4	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8	1,162.0	1,191.4	1,186.3
Females							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	10.2	10.6	10.4	10.7	10.7	12.5	10.7
C-E Other production industries	88.9	87.4	82.8	82.5	83.9	86.8	83.6
F Construction	10.0	12.2	12.5	12.7	13.3	13.9	13.2
G Wholesale and retail trade	130.9	144.5	143.5	142.6	140.7	150.0	141.5
H Hotels and restaurants	66.9	69.8	67.5	64.0	66.6	70.1	68.0
I Transport, storage and communication	25.2	27.3	26.5	29.2	28.9	30.6	27.4
J-K Financial and other business services	124.7	132.9	132.4	132.8	131.1	133.0	136.4
L Public administration and defence	47.6	51.0	50.6	51.8	53.6	56.0	53.1
M Education	83.5	84.8	91.5	95.3	96.7	89.2	101.9
N Health	149.1	158.7	159.0	162.5	166.4	172.8	175.2
O-Q Other services	64.7	64.2	63.4	64.2	63.0	66.9	68.8
Total females	801.7	843.5	840.1	848.3	855.0	881.8	879.8
All persons							
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	112.5	119.6	115.3	115.5	114.5	121.7	115.8
C-E Other production industries	301.1	294.6	288.2	285.0	288.5	296.6	292.1
F Construction	227.4	252.1	253.2	253.8	262.7	277.8	281.6
G Wholesale and retail trade	265.4	286.6	285.0	286.1	284.4	297.8	288.3
H Hotels and restaurants	112.6	120.4	115.5	113.1	116.3	120.6	116.6
I Transport, storage and communication	115.7	118.5	118.3	120.5	120.7	128.3	117.2
J-K Financial and other business services	247.7	263.3	263.0	269.2	267.3	267.7	278.0
L Public administration and defence	94.4	101.0	100.7	103.1	105.1	105.8	105.1
M Education	118.5	119.8	127.9	132.8	135.6	123.7	139.6
N Health	182.5	191.5	191.5	196.3	201.2	210.9	210.2
O-Q Other services	116.3	122.4	122.1	122.8	120.6	122.4	121.6
Total persons	1,894.1	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0	2,073.3	2,066.1

**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	Sep- Nov 04	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06	Jun- Aug 06	Sep- Nov 06
Males							
In labour force	1,147.1	1,185.7	1,197.2	1,211.2	1,225.6	1,233.7	1,243.6
In employment:	1,093.5	1,131.9	1,141.9	1,156.5	1,168.9	1,176.4	1,188.1
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	102.1	105.7	105.0	106.2	105.6	105.6	105.5
C-E Other production industries	212.2	205.3	205.0	203.5	206.0	207.9	207.8
F Construction	216.1	235.8	239.2	244.2	252.0	259.4	266.7
G Wholesale and retail trade	134.8	139.7	141.6	143.6	146.0	145.3	147.0
H Hotels and restaurants	46.8	49.2	49.2	49.0	49.9	49.2	50.0
I Transport, storage and communication	90.3	90.3	91.8	92.0	92.2	96.7	89.7
J-K Financial and other business services	123.3	130.0	130.5	137.5	135.6	134.5	141.3
L Public administration and defence	47.4	49.5	50.9	51.3	51.4	49.4	52.7
M Education	34.8	35.4	36.2	37.1	39.2	35.0	37.6
N Health	33.4	32.5	32.8	33.8	34.9	37.5	35.5
O-Q Other services	51.6	57.8	58.7	58.5	58.0	55.0	52.9
Unemployed	53.8	54.1	55.3	54.9	56.1	57.7	55.3
Unemployment rate %	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.5
Participation rate %	71.7	72.6	72.7	73.0	73.2	73.2	73.3
Females							
In labour force	836.7	866.4	878.8	889.4	899.5	908.9	915.3
In employment:	803.4	832.7	841.2	851.6	861.0	871.5	880.2
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	10.6	10.2	10.8	10.9	10.5	12.1	11.1
C-E Other production industries	89.8	84.8	83.8	84.0	84.0	84.2	84.6
F Construction	10.2	12.0	12.9	12.8	13.0	13.8	13.7
G Wholesale and retail trade	132.1	140.7	144.6	143.0	143.2	145.9	142.3
H Hotels and restaurants	66.2	66.1	66.6	66.8	68.2	66.5	66.9
I Transport, storage and communication	25.4	26.8	26.9	29.2	29.0	30.0	28.0
J-K Financial and other business services	124.6	132.7	132.1	131.5	132.9	133.0	135.8
L Public administration and defence	47.9	50.0	50.9	52.6	53.7	54.7	53.3
M Education	82.5	90.2	90.3	93.0	94.7	94.8	100.3
N Health	149.7	157.4	159.5	162.7	167.1	171.3	175.6
O-Q Other services	63.9	63.0	62.5	65.3	64.1	65.7	67.8
Unemployed	33.0	34.4	37.3	37.6	38.4	38.0	34.7
Unemployment rate %	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.8
Participation rate %	51.0	51.9	52.3	52.6	52.9	53.0	53.2
All persons							
In labour force	1,982.8	2,053.1	2,075.0	2,100.8	2,124.8	2,143.5	2,158.1
In employment:	1,896.6	1,964.7	1,983.0	2,008.1	2,029.8	2,048.0	2,068.5
A-B Agriculture, forestry and fishing	112.7	115.7	115.9	117.1	116.3	117.5	116.6
C-E Other production industries	302.3	290.1	289.1	287.5	289.6	292.2	292.8
F Construction	226.2	247.7	252.0	256.9	265.4	273.0	280.3
G Wholesale and retail trade	266.7	280.0	286.1	287.1	289.3	290.8	289.3
H Hotels and restaurants	112.9	115.0	115.7	115.1	119.6	115.3	116.7
I Transport, storage and communication	115.8	117.5	118.6	120.9	121.0	127.1	117.7
J-K Financial and other business services	248.4	262.4	263.4	268.8	268.2	267.0	278.1
L Public administration and defence	95.4	99.6	101.6	103.6	105.1	104.5	106.0
M Education	117.5	125.0	126.7	130.4	133.8	129.0	138.3
N Health	183.0	190.0	192.2	196.6	201.8	209.0	211.1
O-Q Other services	115.5	120.8	121.3	123.7	122.2	120.8	120.8
Unemployed	87.0	88.3	93.0	92.3	94.5	95.4	90.6
Unemployment rate %	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.2
Participation rate %	61.2	62.2	62.4	62.7	63.0	63.1	63.2

¹ See Background Notes.

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

'000

Broad occupational group	Sep- Nov 04	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06	Jun- Aug 06	Sep- Nov 06
Males							
1. Managers and administrators	221.8	216.7	217.3	213.8	215.5	218.7	217.8
2. Professional	110.2	109.5	114.9	118.5	119.8	116.6	123.3
3. Associate professional and technical	67.9	71.0	69.9	74.8	70.8	75.9	74.0
4. Clerical and secretarial	58.8	61.4	58.4	59.7	61.9	62.1	61.4
5. Craft and related	251.5	267.1	269.6	267.4	274.6	284.2	283.7
6. Personal and protective service	73.2	77.9	76.9	82.0	80.4	83.6	83.9
7. Sales	59.2	66.8	68.5	69.9	69.3	68.2	66.5
8. Plant and machine operatives	137.7	143.3	144.4	142.6	141.1	146.0	144.2
9. Other	112.1	132.7	120.7	121.1	128.7	136.0	131.6
Total males	1,092.4	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8	1,162.0	1,191.4	1,186.3
Females							
1. Managers and administrators	91.0	96.3	95.5	95.1	97.5	100.1	94.7
2. Professional	101.7	103.4	109.8	117.5	116.3	112.3	125.3
3. Associate professional and technical	98.5	100.0	97.3	100.3	100.3	101.9	106.3
4. Clerical and secretarial	174.7	187.5	184.4	186.1	186.1	193.1	189.5
5. Craft and related	11.2	12.6	11.5	10.4	11.7	13.1	10.2
6. Personal and protective service	122.6	133.9	135.0	131.7	137.9	144.1	145.8
7. Sales	99.5	109.5	108.7	110.8	109.1	119.2	111.2
8. Plant and machine operatives	31.6	28.8	27.7	27.8	26.6	26.5	26.2
9. Other	70.8	71.5	70.2	68.7	69.4	71.4	70.5
Total females	801.7	843.5	840.1	848.3	855.0	881.8	879.8
All persons							
1. Managers and administrators	312.8	313.0	312.8	309.0	313.0	318.8	312.5
2. Professional	211.9	213.0	224.7	236.0	236.1	228.9	248.5
3. Associate professional and technical	166.4	170.9	167.2	175.2	171.1	177.9	180.3
4. Clerical and secretarial	233.5	248.8	242.8	245.8	248.0	255.2	250.9
5. Craft and related	262.8	279.7	281.1	277.8	286.3	297.3	293.9
6. Personal and protective service	195.9	211.8	211.9	213.7	218.2	227.8	229.7
7. Sales	158.7	176.3	177.2	180.6	178.4	187.4	177.7
8. Plant and machine operatives	169.2	172.0	172.1	170.4	167.7	172.5	170.4
9. Other	182.9	204.2	190.9	189.8	198.1	207.4	202.1
Total persons	1,894.1	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0	2,073.3	2,066.1

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	Sep- Nov 04	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06	Jun- Aug 06	Sep- Nov 06
Males							
1-9 hours	6.4	4.8	7.4	8.4	8.7	4.6	6.2
10-19	15.7	16.1	19.8	23.1	22.0	18.5	19.3
20-29	36.6	42.2	40.6	42.5	45.4	44.5	44.6
30-34	18.6	21.6	21.3	20.5	21.1	21.7	19.6
35-39	392.4	405.0	407.2	412.9	430.9	448.6	430.8
40-44	253.6	275.2	265.4	273.1	268.9	275.2	288.9
45 & over	195.7	213.2	209.7	200.0	193.7	202.4	192.0
Variable hours ¹	173.5	168.0	169.2	169.2	171.2	176.0	185.0
Total males	1,092.4	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8	1,162.0	1,191.4	1,186.3
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>41.4</i>	<i>41.0</i>	<i>40.6</i>	<i>40.5</i>	<i>40.8</i>	<i>40.6</i>
Females							
1-9 hours	20.5	18.9	25.0	25.2	25.9	20.5	24.5
10-19	79.7	80.3	84.9	85.1	85.8	79.9	86.6
20-29	156.4	170.7	164.9	169.0	169.1	175.2	177.3
30-34	48.8	55.9	56.9	56.6	55.5	59.5	57.5
35-39	313.7	324.7	322.0	321.4	331.6	347.8	335.7
40-44	101.8	109.2	109.2	111.0	106.3	115.5	114.3
45 & over	31.2	34.5	32.4	32.6	30.2	30.0	30.6
Variable hours ¹	49.6	49.3	44.8	47.4	50.6	53.3	53.3
Total females	801.7	843.5	840.1	848.3	855.0	881.8	879.8
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>32.0</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>31.7</i>
All persons							
1-9 hours	27.0	23.8	32.4	33.6	34.6	25.1	30.6
10-19	95.4	96.4	104.6	108.2	107.8	98.5	105.9
20-29	193.0	212.9	205.4	211.4	214.5	219.7	221.9
30-34	67.3	77.6	78.3	77.2	76.6	81.2	77.1
35-39	706.1	729.7	729.2	734.3	762.5	796.4	766.5
40-44	355.3	384.4	374.6	384.1	375.2	390.7	403.2
45 & over	226.9	247.7	242.1	232.6	223.9	232.4	222.6
Variable hours ¹	223.1	217.3	214.0	216.7	221.7	229.3	238.3
Total persons	1,894.1	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0	2,073.3	2,066.1
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>37.1</i>	<i>37.2</i>	<i>36.9</i>	<i>36.6</i>	<i>36.5</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	Sep- Nov 04	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06	Jun- Aug 06	Sep- Nov 06
Males							
Self employed (with paid employees)	88.7	91.8	89.3	90.6	92.6	93.9	93.1
Self employed (with no paid employees)	172.8	178.0	173.8	177.1	177.4	179.8	181.7
Employee	823.5	869.0	871.8	877.8	887.8	912.5	907.0
Assisting relative	7.4	7.5	5.6	4.4	4.2	5.2	4.5
Total males	1,092.4	1,146.3	1,140.5	1,149.8	1,162.0	1,191.4	1,186.3
Females							
Self employed (with paid employees)	21.9	18.9	17.9	18.5	18.4	20.6	19.6
Self employed (with no paid employees)	31.3	31.3	32.8	32.3	31.4	30.6	31.4
Employee	741.6	785.8	781.6	790.1	797.7	823.0	821.2
Assisting relative	6.9	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.4	7.7	7.6
Total females	801.7	843.5	840.1	848.3	855.0	881.8	879.8
All persons							
Self employed (with paid employees)	110.6	110.7	107.2	109.1	111.0	114.5	112.7
Self employed (with no paid employees)	204.1	209.4	206.6	209.3	208.9	210.4	213.2
Employee	1,565.1	1,654.7	1,653.4	1,667.9	1,685.5	1,735.5	1,728.1
Assisting relative	14.3	15.0	13.4	11.8	11.6	12.8	12.1
Total persons	1,894.1	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0	2,073.3	2,066.1

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					
Sep-Nov 2004	490.8	23.4	514.2	4.6	59.7
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
Jun-Aug 2006	533.5	29.9	563.3	5.3	62.3
Sep-Nov 2006	531.3	24.2	555.5	4.4	61.1
Southern and Eastern					
Sep-Nov 2004	1,403.3	62.2	1,465.5	4.2	61.5
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
Jun-Aug 2006	1,539.8	75.0	1,614.7	4.6	64.7
Sep-Nov 2006	1,534.8	64.5	1,599.3	4.0	63.7
State					
Sep-Nov 2004	1,894.1	85.6	1,979.7	4.3	61.0
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
Jun-Aug 2006	2,073.3	104.8	2,178.1	4.8	64.1
Sep-Nov 2006	2,066.1	88.7	2,154.8	4.1	63.0

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	Sep-Nov 2004	196.6	11.1	207.7	5.4	58.5
	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
	Jun-Aug 2006	210.4	13.2	223.6	5.9	60.5
	Sep-Nov 2006	213.5	11.6	225.1	5.1	60.5
Midland	Sep-Nov 2004	107.4	4.7	112.1	4.2	60.2
	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
	Jun-Aug 2006	118.8	5.9	124.7	4.7	63.0
	Sep-Nov 2006	119.2	3.7	123.0	3.0	61.7
West	Sep-Nov 2004	186.8	7.5	194.3	3.9	60.6
	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
	Jun-Aug 2006	204.3	10.7	215.0	5.0	63.9
	Sep-Nov 2006	198.5	8.9	207.4	4.3	61.3
Dublin	Sep-Nov 2004	564.0	24.4	588.4	4.1	62.9
	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
	Jun-Aug 2006	608.4	29.0	637.5	4.6	65.7
	Sep-Nov 2006	610.4	26.6	637.0	4.2	65.3
Mid-East	Sep-Nov 2004	212.0	6.2	218.2	2.9	63.7
	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
	Jun-Aug 2006	231.8	9.1	240.9	3.8	65.9
	Sep-Nov 2006	232.8	6.9	239.7	2.9	65.0
Mid-West	Sep-Nov 2004	159.4	8.5	167.9	5.1	60.9
	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
	Jun-Aug 2006	176.2	10.1	186.3	5.4	64.8
	Sep-Nov 2006	171.0	8.5	179.5	4.7	62.1
South-East	Sep-Nov 2004	195.2	11.6	206.8	5.6	59.1
	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
	Jun-Aug 2006	218.4	13.5	232.0	5.8	62.8
	Sep-Nov 2006	219.1	11.1	230.1	4.8	61.9
South-West	Sep-Nov 2004	272.8	11.4	284.2	4.0	59.1
	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
	Jun-Aug 2006	305.0	13.2	318.1	4.1	63.3
	Sep-Nov 2006	301.5	11.4	312.9	3.6	61.7
State	Sep-Nov 2004	1,894.1	85.6	1,979.7	4.3	61.0
	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
	Jun-Aug 2006	2,073.3	104.8	2,178.1	4.8	64.1
	Sep-Nov 2006	2,066.1	88.7	2,154.8	4.1	63.0

¹ See Background Notes.

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

Marital status	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Single	30.7	80.8	91.6	86.7	74.8	57.5	48.5	18.2	71.3
Married	*	97.6	95.8	96.5	92.5	81.5	62.3	16.2	77.3
Separated or divorced	*	*	90.9	89.7	81.3	60.2	47.3	8.8	70.8
Widowed	*	*	*	90.1	82.2	71.1	47.9	7.6	22.5
Total males	30.7	81.0	92.8	93.8	89.0	77.0	59.2	15.1	73.1
Females									
Single	23.3	71.6	83.6	77.8	71.8	59.1	40.8	5.0	62.4
Married	27.1	56.6	71.5	64.7	63.4	46.5	27.7	4.9	52.6
Separated or divorced	*	*	62.8	67.2	72.7	54.7	32.9	9.3	60.3
Widowed	*	*	75.5	64.3	68.6	45.4	26.8	2.3	11.5
Total females	23.4	71.1	78.6	67.3	65.4	48.3	28.8	3.8	53.0
All persons									
Single	27.1	76.3	88.0	82.9	73.6	58.1	45.8	12.2	67.2
Married	26.9	68.2	82.2	80.5	78.1	64.5	45.4	11.3	65.0
Separated or divorced	*	*	71.5	74.7	75.9	56.7	39.7	9.1	64.2
Widowed	*	*	79.3	70.8	72.2	51.8	31.5	3.4	13.8
Total persons	27.1	76.1	85.8	80.7	77.2	62.7	44.0	8.8	63.0

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

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

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Sep-Nov 2004	29.1	77.7	92.6	93.5	89.1	74.8	56.9	13.6	71.5
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
Jun-Aug 2006	41.0	85.9	93.1	93.8	88.6	76.9	58.4	14.1	74.3
Sep-Nov 2006	30.7	81.0	92.8	93.8	89.0	77.0	59.2	15.1	73.1
Females									
Sep-Nov 2004	24.0	71.5	76.3	65.7	61.4	44.4	23.8	3.1	50.8
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
Jun-Aug 2006	33.3	75.4	78.8	67.0	63.9	48.2	30.0	3.6	54.0
Sep-Nov 2006	23.4	71.1	78.6	67.3	65.4	48.3	28.8	3.8	53.0
All persons									
Sep-Nov 2004	26.6	74.6	84.4	79.6	75.3	59.7	40.5	7.7	61.0
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
Jun-Aug 2006	37.2	80.7	86.1	80.5	76.3	62.6	44.2	8.2	64.1
Sep-Nov 2006	27.1	76.1	85.8	80.7	77.2	62.7	44.0	8.8	63.0

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									
Sep-Nov 2004	44.6	134.3	308.5	275.7	223.9	82.5	48.4	27.2	1,145.2
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
Jun-Aug 2006	61.7	150.7	347.0	290.9	231.5	88.0	54.2	29.6	1,253.5
Sep-Nov 2006	46.0	141.5	350.4	292.9	233.9	88.2	55.7	31.9	1,240.5
Females									
Sep-Nov 2004	35.1	122.7	253.3	194.2	153.4	47.9	20.1	7.9	834.5
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
Jun-Aug 2006	47.9	129.9	283.8	204.9	166.6	54.3	27.7	9.4	924.6
Sep-Nov 2006	33.5	123.3	287.0	207.0	171.4	54.8	27.0	10.2	914.3
All persons									
Sep-Nov 2004	79.7	257.0	561.8	469.9	377.3	130.3	68.5	35.1	1,979.7
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
Jun-Aug 2006	109.6	280.6	630.9	495.8	398.0	142.4	81.8	39.0	2,178.1
Sep-Nov 2006	79.5	264.9	637.4	499.9	405.3	143.0	82.7	42.1	2,154.8

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									
Sep-Nov 2004	38.3	124.0	294.7	265.9	215.2	80.0	47.4	27.1	1,092.4
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
Jun-Aug 2006	52.2	137.0	329.4	280.9	223.9	85.0	53.5	29.5	1,191.4
Sep-Nov 2006	40.2	133.0	332.9	282.3	225.4	85.6	55.0	31.8	1,186.3
Females									
Sep-Nov 2004	30.8	114.6	244.7	187.9	149.2	46.7	19.9	7.9	801.7
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
Jun-Aug 2006	40.1	119.6	273.0	197.9	162.1	52.7	27.1	9.3	881.8
Sep-Nov 2006	29.8	116.5	276.5	199.8	167.0	53.4	26.7	10.2	879.8
All persons									
Sep-Nov 2004	69.1	238.7	539.4	453.8	364.4	126.6	67.2	34.9	1,894.1
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
Jun-Aug 2006	92.3	256.6	602.4	478.9	386.0	137.7	80.6	38.8	2,073.3
Sep-Nov 2006	70.0	249.5	609.4	482.1	392.4	139.0	81.7	42.0	2,066.1

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								
Sep-Nov 2004	24.9	71.7	88.5	90.2	85.6	72.5	55.7	76.0
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
Jun-Aug 2006	34.7	78.1	88.4	90.6	85.7	74.2	57.6	78.7
Sep-Nov 2006	26.8	76.1	88.2	90.4	85.7	74.6	58.4	77.7
Females								
Sep-Nov 2004	21.1	66.8	73.7	63.6	59.7	43.3	23.6	57.2
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
Jun-Aug 2006	27.9	69.4	75.8	64.7	62.2	46.8	29.4	60.3
Sep-Nov 2006	20.7	67.1	75.7	65.0	63.7	47.1	28.5	59.6
All persons								
Sep-Nov 2004	23.1	69.3	81.1	76.9	72.7	58.0	39.7	66.7
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
Jun-Aug 2006	31.4	73.8	82.2	77.7	74.0	60.6	43.5	69.6
Sep-Nov 2006	23.8	71.7	82.1	77.8	74.7	60.9	43.5	68.7

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									
Sep-Nov 2004	6.4	10.3	13.8	9.9	8.7	2.5	1.1	*	52.8
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
Jun-Aug 2006	9.4	13.7	17.6	10.0	7.6	3.0	0.7	*	62.1
Sep-Nov 2006	5.8	8.5	17.5	10.6	8.5	2.7	0.7	*	54.2
Females									
Sep-Nov 2004	4.3	8.1	8.6	6.3	4.2	1.2	*	*	32.8
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
Jun-Aug 2006	7.8	10.4	10.8	7.0	4.5	1.6	0.6	*	42.7
Sep-Nov 2006	3.8	6.9	10.5	7.2	4.4	1.4	0.3	*	34.5
All persons									
Sep-Nov 2004	10.6	18.4	22.4	16.2	12.9	3.7	1.3	*	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
Jun-Aug 2006	17.2	24.1	28.4	17.0	12.0	4.6	1.2	*	104.8
Sep-Nov 2006	9.5	15.4	28.0	17.8	12.9	4.1	1.0	*	88.7

* 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									
Sep-Nov 2004	14.3	7.7	4.5	3.6	3.9	3.0	2.2	*	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
Jun-Aug 2006	15.3	9.1	5.1	3.4	3.3	3.4	1.3	*	5.0
Sep-Nov 2006	12.6	6.0	5.0	3.6	3.6	3.0	1.2	*	4.4
Females									
Sep-Nov 2004	12.2	6.6	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.5	*	*	3.9
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
Jun-Aug 2006	16.3	8.0	3.8	3.4	2.7	3.0	2.0	*	4.6
Sep-Nov 2006	11.2	5.6	3.7	3.5	2.6	2.5	1.2	*	3.8
All persons									
Sep-Nov 2004	13.4	7.1	4.0	3.4	3.4	2.8	1.9	*	4.3
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
Jun-Aug 2006	15.7	8.6	4.5	3.4	3.0	3.3	1.5	*	4.8
Sep-Nov 2006	12.0	5.8	4.4	3.6	3.2	2.8	1.2	*	4.1

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)									
Sep-Nov 2004	0.5	5.4	129.3	218.2	190.1	83.2	59.1	99.9	785.8
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
Jun-Aug 2006	0.4	5.5	132.9	223.2	199.3	84.9	68.1	108.9	823.0
Sep-Nov 2006	0.5	4.9	136.8	224.2	200.0	85.2	70.0	109.7	831.5
of which In labour force ('000)									
Sep-Nov 2004	0.3	2.9	87.0	138.0	111.4	35.3	12.9	3.7	391.3
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
Jun-Aug 2006	*	3.4	93.6	143.7	123.4	39.7	19.1	4.9	427.9
Sep-Nov 2006	*	2.8	97.8	145.1	126.8	39.6	19.4	5.4	437.0
of which In employment ('000)									
Sep-Nov 2004	0.3	2.6	85.3	134.1	108.8	34.7	12.7	3.7	382.1
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
Jun-Aug 2006	*	3.0	90.4	139.4	120.8	38.4	18.8	4.8	415.6
Sep-Nov 2006	*	2.4	95.6	141.4	124.0	38.8	19.2	5.4	426.9
Participation rates (%)									
Sep-Nov 2004	*	53.0	67.3	63.2	58.6	42.4	21.8	3.7	49.8
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
Jun-Aug 2006	*	61.6	70.5	64.4	61.9	46.7	28.1	4.5	52.0
Sep-Nov 2006	*	56.6	71.5	64.7	63.4	46.5	27.7	4.9	52.6

* 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	%	%
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
Jun-Aug 2006	2,178.1	2,073.3	104.8	28.4	4.8	1.3
Sep-Nov 2006	2,154.8	2,066.1	88.7	27.1	4.1	1.3

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

'000

Duration of unemployment(ILO)	Sep- Nov 04	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May-06	Jun- Aug 06	Sep- Nov 06
Males							
Less than 1 year	31.3	36.1	33.4	32.9	33.8	40.7	33.8
1 year and over	21.3	21.6	20.7	19.7	21.1	21.1	20.2
Not stated	*	0.3	*	*	0.3	0.3	*
Total males	52.8	58.0	54.3	52.8	55.2	62.1	54.2
Females							
Less than 1 year	25.2	32.3	30.0	28.9	27.7	35.5	27.6
1 year and over	7.5	6.5	6.9	6.6	8.4	7.2	6.9
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total females	32.8	38.8	37.0	35.4	36.1	42.7	34.5
All persons							
Less than 1 year	56.5	68.4	63.5	61.7	61.5	76.2	61.4
1 year and over	28.9	28.1	27.6	26.2	29.6	28.4	27.1
Not stated	*	0.3	*	*	0.3	0.3	*
Total persons	85.6	96.7	91.3	88.2	91.4	104.8	88.7

* 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 Sep-Nov 2005				QNHS Sep-Nov 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	13.3	13.6	6.6	33.4	10.2	17.4	6.2	33.8
1 year and over	3.9	10.7	6.1	20.7	4.0	10.6	5.6	20.2
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total males	17.2	24.3	12.8	54.3	14.3	28.0	11.9	54.2
Females								
Less than 1 year	10.8	14.3	4.9	30.0	9.0	14.0	4.5	27.6
1 year and over	1.6	3.0	2.3	6.9	1.6	3.7	1.6	6.9
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total females	12.4	17.4	7.2	37.0	10.6	17.7	6.1	34.5
All persons								
Less than 1 year	24.1	27.9	11.5	63.5	19.3	31.4	10.7	61.4
1 year and over	5.5	13.8	8.3	27.6	5.5	14.3	7.3	27.1
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total persons	29.6	41.7	20.0	91.3	24.9	45.7	18.1	88.7

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

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

ILO Economic Status	Sep- Nov 04	Dec- Feb 05	Mar- May 05	Jun- Aug 05	Sep- Nov 05	Dec- Feb 06	Mar- May 06	Jun- Aug 06	Sep- Nov 06
									'000
In labour force	1,979.7	1,990.5	2,014.8	2,086.5	2,071.9	2,086.3	2,108.3	2,178.1	2,154.8
In employment:	1,894.1	1,908.3	1,929.2	1,989.8	1,980.6	1,998.1	2,017.0	2,073.3	2,066.1
full-time	1,577.6	1,581.0	1,597.5	1,647.0	1,639.8	1,654.7	1,665.4	1,724.7	1,717.0
part-time:	316.6	327.4	331.7	342.8	340.8	343.4	351.6	348.6	349.1
of which: <i>part-time, not underemployed</i> ¹	313.6	324.3	327.7	339.3	336.4	339.2	347.4	345.0	345.5
<i>part-time, underemployed</i> ¹	2.9	3.0	4.0	3.5	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.6	3.6
Unemployed:									
seeking full-time work	85.6	82.1	85.6	96.7	91.3	88.2	91.4	104.8	88.7
seeking part-time work	72.2	69.1	71.0	80.2	74.2	72.7	76.5	88.1	74.2
	13.4	13.0	14.7	16.5	17.0	15.5	14.9	16.7	14.6
Not in labour force	1,266.0	1,272.5	1,262.6	1,215.1	1,260.2	1,265.9	1,262.0	1,220.4	1,267.1
Marginally attached to the labour force:	11.3	12.1	9.1	13.6	9.8	10.1	9.8	15.5	9.9
Discouraged workers	8.4	9.3	7.0	10.9	7.4	8.0	7.7	12.8	7.5
Passive jobseekers	2.9	2.8	2.1	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.7	2.5
Others:	1,254.7	1,260.4	1,253.5	1,201.5	1,250.3	1,255.8	1,252.2	1,204.8	1,257.1
Persons not in education, who want work ²	56.1	56.5	53.9	56.5	58.4	60.5	57.0	66.5	59.2
Persons in education, who want work ²	27.8	29.4	31.8	24.9	26.6	32.0	34.7	27.0	32.4
All other persons	1,170.8	1,174.4	1,167.9	1,120.1	1,165.3	1,163.3	1,160.5	1,111.4	1,165.5
Total persons aged 15 or over	3,245.7	3,262.9	3,277.4	3,301.6	3,332.1	3,352.2	3,370.3	3,398.4	3,421.8

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
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
Jun-Aug 2006	5.4	8.3	8.4
Sep-Nov 2006	4.4	7.1	7.3

%

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**

Principal Economic Status	Sep-Nov 04	Jun-Aug 05	Sep-Nov 05	Dec-Feb 06	Mar-May 06	Jun-Aug 06	Sep-Nov 06
Males							
At work	1,066.9	1,101.1	1,109.8	1,119.6	1,130.4	1,146.5	1,157.2
Unemployed	78.0	80.6	80.9	80.2	80.3	83.6	79.4
Student	171.2	163.1	169.0	169.7	169.7	159.7	165.4
Home duties	5.2	6.0	5.2	5.0	5.1	4.3	5.3
Retired	208.6	210.9	211.9	213.3	213.0	216.6	214.4
Others	71.7	71.3	72.0	71.4	74.1	75.8	75.6
Total males	1,601.6	1,633.0	1,648.8	1,659.1	1,672.6	1,686.5	1,697.3
Females							
At work	761.1	789.5	794.4	806.0	810.4	824.5	839.9
Unemployed	34.0	39.1	37.5	36.2	35.1	41.4	33.8
Student	186.5	182.8	193.6	196.6	199.3	184.3	188.5
Home duties	553.3	539.8	538.5	535.0	530.3	536.1	541.9
Retired	70.5	74.8	76.9	76.9	78.3	80.4	77.0
Others	38.8	42.5	42.4	42.3	44.4	45.2	43.5
Total females	1,644.1	1,668.6	1,683.3	1,693.1	1,697.7	1,711.9	1,724.6
All persons							
At work	1,828.0	1,890.6	1,904.3	1,925.6	1,940.8	1,971.1	1,997.0
Unemployed	112.0	119.8	118.4	116.4	115.4	125.0	113.1
Student	357.7	346.0	362.6	366.2	369.0	344.0	354.0
Home duties	558.5	545.8	543.7	540.0	535.4	540.4	547.3
Retired	279.1	285.6	288.7	290.2	291.3	297.1	291.4
Others	110.5	113.8	114.4	113.7	118.4	121.0	119.0
Total persons	3,245.7	3,301.6	3,332.1	3,352.2	3,370.3	3,398.4	3,421.8

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, September-November 2006

'000

ILO Economic Status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
Males							
In employment:	1,153.1	2.1	24.3	*	4.7	2.0	1,186.3
full-time	1,104.8	1.5	1.8	*	0.9	1.3	1,110.3
part-time:	48.3	0.6	22.5	*	3.8	0.8	76.0
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed¹</i>	47.1	0.4	22.5	*	3.8	0.8	74.5
<i>part-time, underemployed¹</i>	1.2	*	*	*	*	*	1.4
Unemployed:	0.9	49.4	1.6	*	0.5	1.7	54.2
seeking full-time work	0.8	48.8	0.4	*	*	1.5	51.7
seeking part-time work	*	0.7	1.2	*	0.3	*	2.5
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.2	3.2	0.3	*	*	0.7	5.7
Others	2.0	24.6	139.2	5.1	209.0	71.2	451.1
Total males aged 15 or over	1,157.2	79.4	165.4	5.3	214.4	75.6	1,697.3
Females							
In employment:	833.9	1.2	34.4	7.7	0.8	1.8	879.8
full-time	600.5	0.6	2.5	1.6	*	1.4	606.7
part-time:	233.4	0.5	31.9	6.2	0.7	0.4	273.1
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed¹</i>	231.6	0.3	31.8	6.2	0.7	0.4	271.0
<i>part-time, underemployed¹</i>	1.9	0.3	*	*	*	*	2.2
Unemployed:	0.5	20.6	1.6	10.9	*	0.7	34.5
seeking full-time work	0.4	16.9	0.3	4.1	*	0.6	22.4
seeking part-time work	*	3.7	1.3	6.7	*	*	12.1
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.2	1.4	0.4	1.2	*	*	4.3
Others	4.3	10.6	152.1	522.1	76.1	40.8	806.0
Total females aged 15 or over	839.9	33.8	188.5	541.9	77.0	43.5	1,724.6
All persons							
In employment:	1,987.0	3.3	58.7	7.8	5.4	3.8	2,066.1
full-time	1,705.3	2.2	4.3	1.6	1.0	2.7	1,717.0
part-time:	281.7	1.1	54.4	6.2	4.4	1.2	349.1
<i>of which: part-time, not underemployed¹</i>	278.6	0.7	54.4	6.2	4.4	1.2	345.5
<i>part-time, underemployed¹</i>	3.1	0.5	*	*	*	*	3.6
Unemployed:	1.4	70.0	3.2	11.1	0.6	2.4	88.7
seeking full-time work	1.2	65.7	0.7	4.3	0.3	2.0	74.2
seeking part-time work	*	4.4	2.5	6.8	0.3	0.4	14.6
Marginally attached to the labour force	2.4	4.6	0.7	1.3	*	0.7	9.9
Others	6.2	35.2	291.3	527.2	285.1	112.1	1,257.1
Total persons aged 15 or over	1,997.0	113.1	354.0	547.3	291.4	119.0	3,421.8

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	September-November 2005				September-November 2006			
	In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Participation rate	In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Participation rate
	'000	'000	'000	%	'000	'000	'000	%
Males aged 15 to 64								
Primary or below	130.4	13.0	143.4	9.1	126.8	11.7	138.5	8.4
Lower secondary	215.5	14.8	230.3	6.4	217.3	13.6	231.0	5.9
Higher secondary	305.9	12.9	318.8	4.0	315.7	14.1	329.8	4.3
Post leaving cert	124.2	4.1	128.4	3.2	126.2	4.0	130.2	3.1
Third level non degree	100.8	2.8	103.6	2.7	105.0	3.2	108.2	3.0
Third level degree or above	205.6	5.3	210.9	2.5	219.4	5.4	224.8	2.4
Other	29.4	1.1	30.5	3.6	43.9	2.1	46.1	4.6
Total males aged 15 to 64	1,111.7	54.1	1,165.8	4.6	1,154.5	54.1	1,208.6	4.5
								81.3
Females aged 15 to 64								
Primary or below	54.1	3.5	57.6	6.1	49.0	3.8	52.9	7.2
Lower secondary	103.4	7.6	111.0	6.8	97.9	6.9	104.8	6.6
Higher secondary	241.4	11.4	252.8	4.5	245.7	9.2	254.9	3.6
Post leaving cert	94.8	4.8	99.6	4.8	94.9	3.9	98.8	3.9
Third level non degree	116.8	3.1	119.9	2.6	125.5	4.5	130.0	3.5
Third level degree or above	203.9	5.5	209.5	2.6	232.6	4.5	237.1	1.9
Other	16.9	0.9	17.8	5.1	24.1	1.5	25.6	5.9
Total females aged 15 to 64	831.3	36.9	868.2	4.3	869.6	34.4	904.1	3.8
								62.0
All persons aged 15 to 64								
Primary or below	184.5	16.5	201.0	8.2	175.9	15.5	191.4	8.1
Lower secondary	318.9	22.4	341.3	6.6	315.2	20.6	335.8	6.1
Higher secondary	547.2	24.3	571.5	4.3	561.3	23.3	584.7	4.0
Post leaving cert	219.1	8.9	228.0	3.9	221.1	7.9	229.0	3.4
Third level non degree	217.6	5.9	223.5	2.6	230.5	7.7	238.2	3.2
Third level degree or above	409.6	10.8	420.4	2.6	452.0	9.9	461.9	2.1
Other	46.2	2.0	48.2	4.1	68.1	3.6	71.7	5.0
Total persons aged 15 to 64	1,943.0	90.9	2,034.0	4.5	2,024.1	88.6	2,112.7	4.2
								71.7

Table 24 Estimated adult¹ members of family units classified by composition of family unit, ILO Economic Status and sex, September-November 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	96.5	92.0	188.4	4.4	3.6	7.9	4.0	9.4	13.5	104.8	105.0	209.8
Wife/female partner aged 45 to 64	76.4	55.7	132.0	1.8	1.2	3.1	44.1	64.3	108.4	122.3	121.1	243.5
Wife/female partner aged 65 or over	9.9	3.6	13.5	*	*	*	71.4	78.9	150.3	81.4	82.5	163.9
Total	182.7	151.2	333.9	6.3	4.8	11.1	119.5	152.6	272.2	308.5	308.7	617.2
Husband and wife (or couple) with children:												
At least 1 child aged under 5 and no child aged 15 or over	178.7	116.4	295.1	6.2	3.4	9.6	7.2	71.4	78.6	192.1	191.2	383.4
At least 1 child aged under 5 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	8.7	4.2	12.9	0.5	*	0.5	0.8	5.7	6.5	10.0	9.9	19.9
All children aged 5 to 14	77.7	52.0	129.7	1.6	1.7	3.3	4.2	28.7	32.9	83.5	82.4	165.9
No child aged under 5, at least 1 child aged 5 to 14 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	114.8	75.3	190.1	2.9	2.0	4.8	9.6	47.1	56.7	127.3	124.4	251.7
All children aged 15 or over ³	142.1	93.5	235.6	3.7	2.2	6.0	52.8	99.6	152.4	198.6	195.4	394.0
Total	522.0	341.4	863.5	14.9	9.3	24.2	74.7	252.5	327.1	611.6	603.2	1,214.8
Lone parent with children:												
At least 1 child aged under 5 and no child aged 15 or over	0.9	17.2	18.1	*	1.6	1.7	*	25.1	25.2	1.0	43.9	45.0
At least 1 child aged under 5 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	*	1.3	1.4	*	*	*	*	1.6	1.6	*	3.0	3.2
All children aged 5 to 14	0.8	16.5	17.3	*	2.1	2.1	0.3	8.1	8.4	1.2	26.6	27.8
No child aged under 5, at least 1 child aged 5 to 14 and at least 1 child aged 15 or over	2.8	16.1	19.0	*	1.5	1.6	0.8	8.3	9.1	3.7	25.9	29.6
All children aged 15 or over ³	8.2	25.4	33.5	0.4	1.2	1.5	9.0	43.6	52.6	17.6	70.1	87.7
Total	12.8	76.5	89.3	0.6	6.5	7.1	10.2	86.6	96.8	23.6	169.6	193.2
Total	717.6	569.1	1,286.7	21.8	20.6	42.4	204.4	491.7	696.1	943.7	1,081.5	2,025.2

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.

³ For the purpose of this table persons (regardless of age) living with a parent or parents are defined as children.

* 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	Q3/2005					Q3/2006				
	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	217,597	198,470	19,127	57.2	8.8	219,821	202,314	17,508	57.4	8.0
EU-15	183,170	168,545	14,623	57.4	8.0	185,470	171,511	13,958	57.7	7.5
Eurozone ²	145,814	133,086	12,728	56.2	8.7	147,546	135,696	11,850	56.4	8.0
Belgium	4,649	4,245	404	53.5	8.7	4,655	4,277	378	53.2	8.1
Czech Republic	5,202	4,797	405	59.6	7.8	5,205	4,839	366	59.3	7.0
Denmark	2,901	2,763	138	65.8	4.8	2,944	2,836	108	66.5	3.7
Germany ³	40,809	36,195	4,613	58.3	11.3	41,299	37,070	4,229	58.8	10.2
Estonia	657	611	46	58.5	7.0	687	650	37	60.4	5.4
Greece	4,855	4,386	470	53.3	9.7	4,903	4,494	408	53.5	8.3
Spain	20,956	19,191	1,765	56.8	8.4	21,661	19,896	1,765	57.8	8.1
France ⁴	27,170	24,724	2,445	56.4	9.0	27,068	24,690	2,378	55.8	8.8
Ireland	2,087	1,990	97	63.2	4.6	2,178	2,073	105	64.1	4.8
Italy	24,268	22,542	1,726	48.6	7.1	24,490	23,001	1,489	48.8	6.1
Cyprus	368	350	19	63.2	5.2	375	360	15	63.8	3.9
Latvia	1,143	1,044	99	58.2	8.7	1,193	1,119	74	60.7	6.2
Lithuania	1,609	1,492	116	56.7	7.2	1,603	1,512	91	56.4	5.7
Luxembourg ⁴	203	194	9	55.6	4.4	203	194	9	55.6	4.5
Hungary	4,235	3,928	308	50.5	7.3	4,266	3,948	318	50.8	7.5
Malta	159	148	12	49.1	7.5	165	154	11	50.6	6.7
Netherlands	8,525	8,152	373	65.0	4.4	8,605	8,295	310	65.3	3.6
Austria	4,099	3,893	206	60.3	5.0	4,206	4,025	180	61.4	4.3
Poland	17,376	14,358	3,017	55.7	17.4	17,163	14,926	2,237	54.5	13.0
Portugal	5,560	5,130	430	62.3	7.7	5,605	5,187	417	62.6	7.4
Slovenia	1,027	962	65	59.8	6.3	1,031	974	57	59.7	5.5
Slovak Republic	2,651	2,235	417	59.4	15.7	2,665	2,322	344	59.3	12.9
Finland	2,633	2,444	190	61.0	7.2	2,675	2,495	181	61.6	6.8
Sweden	4,762	4,416	345	63.8	7.2	4,837	4,530	307	64.2	6.3
United Kingdom	29,693	28,280	1,412	62.3	4.8	30,143	28,449	1,693	62.8	5.6

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 Q3 2005 figures for Germany relate to Q2 2005 and Q3 2006 figures relate to Q2 2006 as updated detail is not available at present.

⁴ Q3 2006 figures for France and Luxembourg relate to Q2 2006 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, September-November, 2005 and 2006

Economic Status, September, November, 2006 and 2005						'000
Nationality	ILO Economic Status				Total	
	In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Not economically active		
Q4 2006						
Irish nationals ¹	1,850.6	74.4	1,925.0	1,195.7	3,120.7	
Non-Irish nationals	215.5	14.3	229.8	71.4	301.1	
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>United Kingdom</i>	38.0	2.8	40.8	25.5	66.3	
<i>EU15 excl. Irl. & UK</i>	24.6	1.4	26.0	6.0	32.0	
<i>Accession states EU15 to EU25</i>	88.6	5.0	93.6	9.5	103.1	
<i>Other</i>	64.3	5.1	69.3	30.4	99.7	
Total persons	2,066.1	88.7	2,154.8	1,267.1	3,421.8	
Q4 2005						
Irish nationals ¹	1,809.5	79.5	1,888.9	1,189.7	3,078.6	
Non-Irish nationals	171.2	11.8	183.0	70.5	253.5	
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>United Kingdom</i>	40.7	3.0	43.7	25.9	69.5	
<i>EU15 excl. Irl. & UK</i>	21.6	0.9	22.5	7.4	29.9	
<i>Accession states EU15 to EU25</i>	61.6	3.6	65.3	7.4	72.7	
<i>Other</i>	47.2	4.3	51.5	29.8	81.4	
Total persons	1,980.6	91.3	2,071.9	1,260.2	3,332.1	
Year on year changes						
Irish nationals ¹	+ 41.1	- 5.1	+ 36.1	+ 6.0	+ 42.1	
Non-Irish nationals	+ 44.3	+ 2.5	+ 46.8	+ 0.9	+ 47.6	
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>United Kingdom</i>	- 2.7	- 0.2	- 2.9	- 0.4	- 3.2	
<i>EU15 excl. Irl. & UK</i>	+ 3.0	+ 0.5	+ 3.5	- 1.4	+ 2.1	
<i>Accession states EU15 to EU25</i>	+ 27.0	+ 1.4	+ 28.3	+ 2.1	+ 30.4	
<i>Other</i>	+ 17.1	+ 0.8	+ 17.8	+ 0.6	+ 18.3	
Total persons	+ 85.5	- 2.6	+ 82.9	+ 6.9	+ 89.7	

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, September-November, 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	
Q4 2006												
Irish nationals ¹	111.0	256.7	243.9	260.7	83.8	107.2	251.2	103.9	132.7	190.5	108.9	1,850.6
Non-Irish nationals	4.9	35.3	37.7	27.6	32.8	9.9	26.7	1.2	6.9	19.7	12.7	215.5
of which:												
United Kingdom	0.8	5.2	5.6	5.1	2.0	2.3	6.6	0.7	2.6	4.5	2.7	38.0
EU15 excl. Irl. & UK	0.3	3.0	1.1	2.7	3.7	1.5	6.4	*	1.5	1.8	2.4	24.6
Accession states EU15 to EU25	3.2	19.2	23.6	12.2	14.8	3.8	6.3	*	0.4	1.3	3.7	88.6
Other	0.5	7.9	7.4	7.6	12.3	2.2	7.4	0.3	2.4	12.2	4.0	64.3
Total persons	115.8	292.1	281.6	288.3	116.6	117.2	278.0	105.1	139.6	210.2	121.6	2,066.1
Q4 2005												
Irish nationals ¹	111.2	258.0	227.9	263.9	91.2	110.9	240.3	99.3	121.0	174.8	111.1	1,809.5
Non-Irish nationals	4.1	30.2	25.2	21.1	24.3	7.4	22.7	1.4	6.9	16.8	11.0	171.2
of which:												
United Kingdom	0.7	6.2	5.0	5.0	2.3	2.5	6.4	1.0	3.2	5.1	3.2	40.7
EU15 excl. Irl. & UK	0.8	2.4	0.8	1.8	3.0	1.2	6.3	*	1.8	1.4	1.8	21.6
Accession states EU15 to EU25	2.2	15.9	15.2	8.0	8.6	1.9	4.5	*	0.4	1.3	3.6	61.6
Other	0.3	5.8	4.3	6.3	10.4	1.7	5.4	*	1.4	8.9	2.4	47.2
Total persons	115.3	288.2	253.2	285.0	115.5	118.3	263.0	100.7	127.9	191.5	122.1	1,980.6
Year on year changes												
Irish nationals ¹	- 0.2	- 1.3	+ 16.0	- 3.2	- 7.4	- 3.7	+ 10.9	+ 4.6	+ 11.7	+ 15.7	- 2.2	+ 41.1
Non-Irish nationals	+ 0.8	+ 5.1	+ 12.5	+ 6.5	+ 8.5	+ 2.5	+ 4.0	- 0.2	0.0	+ 2.9	+ 1.7	+ 44.3
of which:												
United Kingdom	+ 0.1	- 1.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.6	- 0.5	- 2.7
EU15 excl. Irl. & UK	- 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	*	- 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 3.0
Accession states EU15 to EU25	+ 1.0	+ 3.3	+ 8.4	+ 4.2	+ 6.2	+ 1.9	+ 1.8	*	0.0	0.0	+ 0.1	+ 27.0
Other	+ 0.2	+ 2.1	+ 3.1	+ 1.3	+ 1.9	+ 0.5	+ 2.0	*	+ 1.0	+ 3.3	+ 1.6	+ 17.1
Total persons	+ 0.5	+ 3.9	+ 28.4	+ 3.3	+ 1.1	- 1.1	+ 15.0	+ 4.4	+ 11.7	+ 18.7	- 0.5	+ 85.5

* 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
Q4 2005	Pension provision
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
Q1 2005	Annual update module
Q2 2005	Reconciliation between work and family life
Q3 2005	Recycling and energy
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