

**An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh**  
Central Statistics Office

## **Response Burden Barometer 2011**

**Measurement of administrative burden imposed on Irish  
business by Central Statistics Office inquiries**

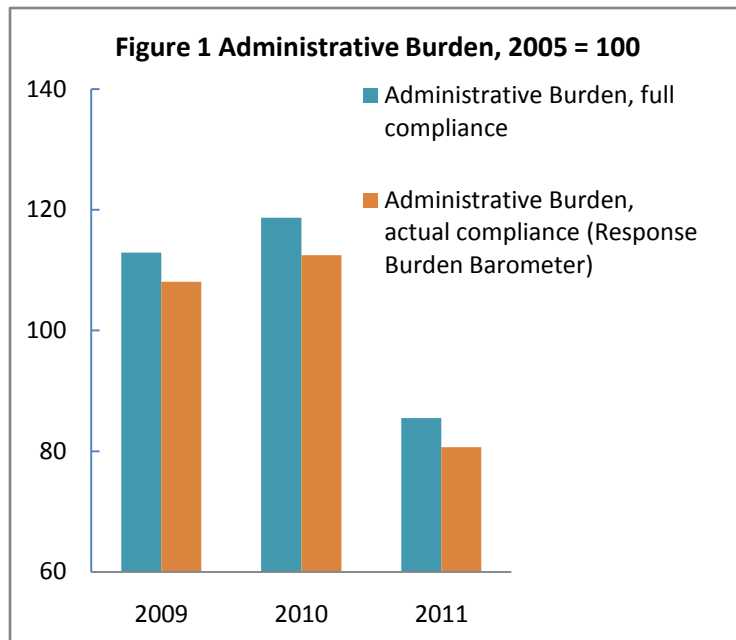
**Central Statistics Office**

**23 August 2012**

# Response Burden Barometer 2011

## Main findings

The Response Burden Barometer (RBB) is a measure of the total administrative burden placed on Irish businesses by Central Statistics Office (CSO) surveys when calculated on an *actual compliance* basis<sup>1</sup>. The RBB for 2011 has reduced by 19.3% since 2005 and by 28% since 2010. In monetary terms, there is an estimated cost to businesses of €6.1 million in 2011 when measured on this basis.



If estimating administrative burden on a *full compliance* basis<sup>2</sup>, the burden level in 2011 is estimated as having decreased by 14.5% since 2005 and by 28% since 2010. In monetary terms, there is an estimated cost of €7.9 million in 2011 when measured on this basis.

Excluding the five yearly Census of Agriculture conducted in 2010, the two main contributing surveys to the decrease in the burden level in 2011 were the Earnings Hours and Employment Costs Survey (EHECS) and the National Employment Survey (NES), the latter not conducted in 2011. The key contributing factor to

reducing the burden in EHECs was due to a reduction in the average time taken to complete a single return. This reduction is possible through CSO collaboration with payroll software companies to enable respondents automate their statistical reporting requirement. There was also a reduction in the sample size used for the Annual Services and December Agriculture surveys, and the Census of Industrial Production benefitting smaller businesses in particular. This is a direct result of the CSO making more use of administrative data sources. There was also a reduction to the number of intrastat trade forms returned following a review of the methodology, which is explained later in this report. See *Table 1*, *Table 2* and *Figure 1*.

## Administrative burden metrics

This report presents administrative burden metrics under the following headings:-

- Number of inquiry forms issued by the CSO;
- Number of fully or partially completed inquiry forms returned to the CSO;

<sup>1</sup> Actual compliance basis: calculated on the basis of fully or partially completed returns to the CSO

<sup>2</sup> Full compliance basis: calculated on the basis of the number of inquiry forms issued by the CSO

- Time taken by businesses in completing (fully or partially) and returning CSO forms, calculated on a full compliance basis (i.e., time based on the number of forms issued by the CSO) and on an actual compliance basis (i.e., time based on the number of completed forms returned to the CSO);
- Administrative Costs to businesses of completing and returning CSO forms, calculated on a full and actual compliance basis;
- Administrative Burden on businesses of completing and returning CSO forms, calculated on both a full compliance basis and actual compliance basis. The actual compliance basis calculation is used as the CSO Response Burden Barometer (RBB).

Administrative Burden is defined as Administrative Costs less business-as-usual costs. (Business-as-usual costs are those administrative costs which would be incurred by a business whether or not it was surveyed.) Administrative Burden on a full compliance basis is the burden metric prescribed in the Standard Cost Model methodology<sup>3</sup>. Administrative Burden on an actual compliance basis, referred to in this report as the Response Burden Barometer level, is the metric preferred in the European Statistical System<sup>4</sup>.

Note that the term “form” as used in this report comprises both paper and electronic information requests and returns.

**Table 1 Total Administrative Burden, actual compliance (Response Burden Barometer) Index, 2005 = 100**

| All Surveys   | 2005         | 2006         | 2007         | 2008         | 2009         | 2010 <sup>1</sup> | 2011        |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Forms Issued  | 100.0        | 90.0         | 111.3        | 97.1         | 94.8         | 113.0             | 76.3        |
| Forms Returned  | 100.0        | 93.2         | 110.2        | 97.3         | 93.5         | 114.5             | 73.8        |
| Time, full compliance (forms issued) - hours                                | 100.0        | 103.7        | 121.6        | 123.6        | 112.9        | 118.7             | 85.5        |
| Time, actual compliance (forms returned) - hours                            | 100.0        | 102.6        | 114.9        | 115.5        | 108.1        | 112.5             | 80.7        |
| Administrative Burden, full compliance                                      | 100.0        | 103.7        | 121.6        | 123.6        | 112.9        | 118.7             | 85.5        |
| <b>Administrative Burden, actual compliance (Response Burden Barometer)</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>102.6</b> | <b>114.9</b> | <b>115.5</b> | <b>108.1</b> | <b>112.5</b>      | <b>80.7</b> |

<sup>1</sup> 2007 & 2010 figures reflect the decennial Census of Agriculture

## Forms issued and received, time taken, and administrative costs and burden

It is estimated that there were 379,400 active business enterprises in Ireland in 2011. In the course of 2011, the CSO issued 348,300 surveys forms, or an average of 0.9 survey forms per enterprise.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.administrative-burdens.com/filesystem/2005/11/international\\_scm\\_manual\\_final\\_178.doc](http://www.administrative-burdens.com/filesystem/2005/11/international_scm_manual_final_178.doc)

<sup>4</sup> The European Statistical System is the partnership between the European Commission (Eurostat) and the national statistical institutes (e.g., the CSO) and other national authorities responsible for the production of official statistics.

Of the forms issued, 240,600 were returned as partially or wholly completed, representing an average of 0.6 forms per enterprise.

If all survey forms issued by the CSO were partially or wholly completed and returned (i.e., if there had been full compliance), then the total number of hours expended on this task by businesses in Ireland in 2011 would have been 292,500, or an average of 46 minutes per business. The administrative cost, measured on 2005 prices, of full compliance would have been €13.1 million, or €35 per enterprise, in that year, the lowest cost since the CSO starting measuring burden in 2005. The administrative burden (i.e., administrative costs less business-as-usual costs) of full compliance would have been €7.9 million, or €21 per business. This is the Standard Cost Model metric.

If burden is measured on the basis of partially or wholly completed survey forms actually returned to the CSO (i.e., if burden is based on actual compliance), then the total number of hours expended by business in 2011 was 224,600, or 36 minutes per business. The administrative cost, measured on 2005 prices, of actual compliance was €10.1 million, or €26.5 per enterprise. The administrative burden of actual compliance in 2011 was €6.1 million, or €16 per business. This, the Response Burden Barometer level, is the burden metric favoured in the European Statistical System. *See Table 2.* All totals have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

### **Forms issued and forms returned, by survey**

In 2011, CSO issued 348,300 inquiry forms, of which 240,600 forms were returned as partially or fully completed.

The most burdensome survey in 2011 was the Trade Intrastat Imports survey, which issued 82,300 forms, of which 68,300 were returned partially or wholly completed. *See Table 3 and Table 4.* All figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred forms.

### **Time taken to complete survey forms**

If all inquiry forms issued by the CSO in 2011 had been completed (partially or wholly) and returned to the CSO, Irish businesses would have had to expend 292,500 hours in this activity. In terms of the number of forms actually completed and returned to the CSO, the time burden was 224,600 hours.

In 2011, compliance with the Intrastat Imports survey required businesses to expend a total of 140,100 hours. Of the surveys directly issued by the CSO, Balance of Payment surveys were the most burdensome, taking 20,100 hours on a full compliance (i.e., forms issued) basis and 18,100 hours on an actual compliance basis (i.e., forms returned). *See Table 5 and Table 6.* All figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred hours.

Table 7 shows the average time taken, in minutes, to complete a single form, by survey. In 2011, a CSO inquiry form took, on average, almost 56 minutes to complete. Note that the Intrastat Imports and Intrastat Exports figures, 123 and 43 minutes respectively, are based on a Standard Cost Model measurement conducted on behalf of Forfás. These estimates are based on a small sample size (24 businesses). A separate burden measurement exercise for Intrastat is planned in 2012.

(See the Background Notes for further details). The figure of 420 minutes for Balance of Payments (BoP) inquiries is the average time taken to complete a single BoP form when taken across the eight BoP inquiries<sup>5</sup>.

### **Administrative costs**

In 2011, the administrative costs to Irish business of dealing with CSO surveys would have been €13.1 million, if measured on a full compliance (i.e., forms issued) basis. On an actual compliance (i.e., forms returned) basis, the administrative costs to Irish business were €10.1 million.

The administrative costs of completing all Intrastat Imports forms in 2011 were €7.6 million. Of the purely CSO surveys, the full compliance administrative costs of the Balance of Payment surveys were €901,600 in 2011, while the actual compliance administrative costs were €812,100. See *Table 8*, *Table 9*, and *Figure 2*. All figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred euro.

### **Previous year revisions**

The estimated average time taken to complete the Annual Services Inquiry in both 2009 and 2010 has also been revised from 26 minutes to 38 minutes in 2009 and to 41.5 in 2010. This is due to the availability of more up to date information.

A review of the method used to calculate the number of intrastat import and export survey forms returned was carried out for this publication. This has resulted in a downward revision in each year. This review involved the removal of blank forms for which the CSO imputes for missing values. This is consistent with the burden measurement used for all other surveys.

The number of intrastat import and export survey forms issued in 2010 has also been revised. This is due to the availability of more up to date data. The effect of these changes is to show a reduction in the average valid response rates from 100% to about 90% per month. The time taken to complete these returns remains unchanged, ie intrastat imports and intrastat exports survey forms taking 123 and 43 minutes respectively.

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<sup>5</sup>The eight BoP inquiries are: BoP10, BoP30, BoP40, BoP42, BoP43, BoP44, BoP45, BoP46

**Table 2 Forms, Time taken to complete forms, Administrative Burden, All Surveys**

|  | 2005             | 2009             | 2010 <sup>1</sup> | 2011             |
|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Total number of active business enterprises</b>                 | 362,100          | 363,500          | 368,800           | 379,400          |
| <b>Number of forms Issued</b>                                      |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| All Surveys  | 456,200          | 432,400          | 515,500           | 348,300          |
| Average number of survey forms per business enterprise per year    | 1.26             | 1.19             | 1.40              | 0.92             |
| <b>Number of forms Returned</b>                                    |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| All Surveys  | 326,100          | 304,800          | 373,400           | 240,600          |
| Average number of survey forms per business enterprise per year    | 0.90             | 0.84             | 1.01              | 0.63             |
| <b>Time, full compliance (forms issued), hours</b>                 |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| All Surveys  | 342,100          | 386,100          | 406,100           | 292,500          |
| Average number of minutes per business enterprise per year         | 56.7             | 63.7             | 66.1              | 46.3             |
| <b>Time, actual compliance (forms returned), hours</b>             |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| All Surveys  | 278,300          | 300,900          | 313,200           | 224,600          |
| Average number of minutes per business enterprise per year         | 46.1             | 49.7             | 51.0              | 35.5             |
| <b>Administrative Costs, full compliance, 2005 prices</b>          |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| All Surveys (€)  | 15,338,000       | 17,310,800       | 18,207,300        | 13,112,000       |
| Average administrative cost (€) per business enterprise per year   | 42.36            | 47.63            | 49.37             | 34.56            |
| <b>Administrative Burden, full compliance, 2005 prices</b>         |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| All Surveys (€)  | 9,251,900        | 10,441,900       | 10,982,600        | 7,909,200        |
| Average administrative burden (€) per business enterprise per year | 25.55            | 28.73            | 29.78             | 20.85            |
| <b>Administrative Costs, actual compliance, 2005 prices</b>        |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| All Surveys (€)  | 12,476,100       | 13,490,200       | 14,041,400        | 10,069,600       |
| Average administrative cost (€) per business enterprise per year   | 34.46            | 37.12            | 38.08             | 26.54            |
| <b>Administrative Burden, actual compliance, 2005 prices</b>       |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| <b>All Surveys (Response Burden Barometer) (€)</b>                 | <b>7,525,600</b> | <b>8,137,300</b> | <b>8,469,800</b>  | <b>6,074,000</b> |
| Average administrative burden (€) per business enterprise per year | 20.79            | 22.39            | 22.97             | 16.01            |

<sup>1</sup> 2007 and 2010 figures reflect the decennial Census of Agriculture

**Table 3 Numbers of forms issued (annualised basis), by survey**

| Survey   | 2005           | 2009           | 2010           | 2011           |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Annual Surveys</b>  | <b>222,600</b> | <b>155,800</b> | <b>257,200</b> | <b>98,800</b>  |
| Annual Services Inquiry  | 16,700         | 24,000         | 22,400         | 16,400         |
| Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises)                                  | 4,700          | 5,600          | 5,500          | 3,500          |
| Census of Industrial Production (Local Units)                                  | 600            | 500            | 500            | 500            |
| Building and Construction Inquiry (formerly Census of Building & Construction) | 700            | 4,700          | 4,600          | 4,600          |
| PRODCOM Inquiry  | 4,500          | 4,900          | 4,300          | 4,100          |
| Business Profile Inquiry   | 20,000         | 1,700          | :              | :              |
| Business Register Inquiry  | 27,900         | 22,300         | :              | :              |
| National Employment Survey   | :              | 11,800         | 11,700         | :              |
| e-Commerce Survey  | 5,800          | 7,300          | 7,000          | 9,000          |
| Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey  | :              | 500            | 600            | 400            |
| Business Energy Use Survey   | :              | :              | 5,600          | 3,700          |
| Access to Finance Survey   | :              | :              | 3,000          | :              |
| Road Freight Transport Survey  | 26,600         | 35,400         | 36,400         | 27,200         |
| June Agriculture Survey/Farm Structures Survey <sup>1</sup>                    | 85,200         | 18,900         | 138,300        | 20,000         |
| December Agriculture Survey  | 30,000         | 18,200         | 17,500         | 9,700          |
| <b>Bi-annual Surveys</b>   | <b>700</b>     | <b>700</b>     | <b>700</b>     | <b>700</b>     |
| Pig Survey   | 700            | 700            | 700            | 700            |
| <b>Quarterly Surveys</b>   | <b>60,600</b>  | <b>81,800</b>  | <b>64,300</b>  | <b>61,100</b>  |
| Balance of Payments inquiries <sup>2</sup>                                     | 2,400          | 3,100          | 2,800          | 2,900          |
| EHECS Survey   | :              | 39,800         | 29,300         | 27,500         |
| Quarterly Assets Inquiry (formerly Quarterly Accounts Inquiry)                 | 40,500         | 21,500         | 15,100         | 14,400         |
| Quarterly Accounts Inquiry to Industry   | 7,200          | 7,100          | 6,500          | 5,700          |
| Quarterly Survey of Construction   | 8,600          | 9,200          | 9,500          | 9,300          |
| Earnings and Hours Worked in Construction                                      | 1,800          | :              | :              | :              |
| Services Producer Prices Inquiry   | :              | 1,100          | 1,100          | 1,300          |
| <b>Monthly Surveys</b>   | <b>66,200</b>  | <b>83,800</b>  | <b>80,600</b>  | <b>76,800</b>  |
| Monthly Industrial Inquiry   | 23,800         | 20,700         | 17,900         | 15,000         |
| Retail Sales Index   | 23,200         | 28,700         | 27,000         | 25,600         |
| Index of Employment in Construction Survey                                     | 12,600         | :              | :              | :              |
| Wholesale Price Inquiry  | 6,600          | 8,900          | 8,700          | 8,800          |
| Import Price Index   | :              | 900            | 900            | 800            |
| Monthly Services (Turnover)  | :              | 24,600         | 26,200         | 26,700         |
| <b>Surveys conducted jointly with other Government bodies</b>                  | <b>106,200</b> | <b>110,200</b> | <b>112,700</b> | <b>110,800</b> |
| Business Expenditure on Research and Development                               | :              | :              | 3,500          | :              |
| Community Innovation Survey  | :              | 4,700          | :              | 4,600          |
| Intrastat Imports Survey   | 82,700         | 83,500         | 85,800         | 82,300         |
| Intrastat Exports Survey   | 23,500         | 22,100         | 23,400         | 23,900         |
| <b>All Surveys</b>   | <b>456,200</b> | <b>432,400</b> | <b>515,500</b> | <b>348,300</b> |

<sup>1</sup> 2010 figure reflects the expansion into the decennial Census of Agriculture

<sup>2</sup> Covers the surveys BoP10, BoP30, BoP40, BoP42, BoP43, BoP44, BoP45, and BoP46, and includes forms issued annually

: Not applicable

**Table 4 Numbers of forms returned (annualised basis), by survey**

| Survey   | 2005           | 2009           | 2010           | 2011           |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Annual Surveys</b>  | <b>137,500</b> | <b>101,300</b> | <b>186,200</b> | <b>63,200</b>  |
| Annual Services Inquiry  | 11,200         | 17,200         | 12,600         | 8,100          |
| Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises)                                  | 3,500          | 3,100          | 3,000          | 2,000          |
| Census of Industrial Production (Local Units)                                  | 500            | 400            | 400            | 400            |
| Building and Construction Inquiry (formerly Census of Building & Construction) | 600            | 2,400          | 2,400          | 2,400          |
| PRODCOM Inquiry  | 2,700          | 3,100          | 2,700          | 3,000          |
| Business Profile Inquiry   | 10,700         | 1,100          | :              | :              |
| Business Register Inquiry  | 19,300         | 12,800         | :              | :              |
| National Employment Survey   | :              | 5,900          | 6,400          | 0              |
| e-Commerce Survey  | 3,000          | 3,900          | 3,100          | 4,700          |
| Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey  | :              | 300            | 400            | 300            |
| Business Energy Use Survey   | :              | :              | 3,300          | 1,900          |
| Access to Finance Survey   | :              | :              | 1,600          | :              |
| Road Freight Transport Survey  | 12,000         | 18,800         | 17,800         | 16,600         |
| June Agriculture Survey/Farm Structures Survey <sup>1</sup>                    | 52,400         | 16,100         | 122,700        | 15,100         |
| December Agriculture Survey  | 21,800         | 16,300         | 9,800          | 8,800          |
| <b>Bi-annual Surveys</b>   | <b>600</b>     | <b>700</b>     | <b>700</b>     | <b>600</b>     |
| Pig Survey   | 600            | 700            | 700            | 600            |
| <b>Quarterly Surveys</b>   | <b>41,900</b>  | <b>50,800</b>  | <b>38,700</b>  | <b>35,800</b>  |
| Balance of Payments inquiries <sup>2</sup>                                     | 2,200          | 2,800          | 2,700          | 2,600          |
| EHECS Survey   | :              | 24,800         | 17,600         | 16,100         |
| Quarterly Assets Inquiry (formerly Quarterly Accounts Inquiry)                 | 28,600         | 12,500         | 8,700          | 8,800          |
| Quarterly Accounts Inquiry to Industry   | 4,500          | 4,300          | 4,000          | 2,900          |
| Quarterly Survey of Construction   | 5,400          | 5,300          | 4,800          | 4,100          |
| Earnings and Hours Worked in Construction                                      | 1,300          | :              | :              | :              |
| Services Producer Prices Inquiry   | :              | 900            | 900            | 1,300          |
| <b>Monthly Surveys</b>   | <b>48,600</b>  | <b>53,500</b>  | <b>51,900</b>  | <b>49,800</b>  |
| Monthly Industrial Inquiry   | 15,500         | 12,700         | 11,300         | 9,500          |
| Retail Sales Index   | 18,500         | 19,300         | 18,900         | 17,700         |
| Index of Employment in Construction Survey                                     | 9,200          | :              | :              | :              |
| Wholesale Price Inquiry  | 5,500          | 5,600          | 5,100          | 5,200          |
| Import Price Index   | :              | 500            | 600            | 600            |
| Monthly Services (Turnover)  | :              | 15,500         | 16,100         | 16,900         |
| <b>Surveys conducted jointly with other Government bodies</b>                  | <b>97,500</b>  | <b>98,600</b>  | <b>95,900</b>  | <b>91,300</b>  |
| Business Expenditure on Research and Development                               | :              | :              | 2,200          | :              |
| Community Innovation Survey  | :              | 2,200          | :              | 3,300          |
| Intrastat Imports Survey <sup>3</sup>  | 77,100         | 76,500         | 73,800         | 68,300         |
| Intrastat Exports Survey   | 20,400         | 19,800         | 20,000         | 19,700         |
| <b>All Surveys</b>   | <b>326,100</b> | <b>304,800</b> | <b>373,400</b> | <b>240,600</b> |

<sup>1</sup> 2010 figure reflects the expansion into the decennial Census of Agriculture

<sup>2</sup> Covers the surveys BoP10, BoP30, BoP40, BoP42, BoP43, BoP44, BoP45, and BoP46, and includes forms issued annually

<sup>3</sup> All years revised to remove blank and imputed returns.

: Not applicable



**Table 5 Time, full compliance (forms issued) basis, by survey - hours**

| Survey   | 2005           | 2009           | 2010           | 2011           |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Annual Surveys</b>  | <b>105,900</b> | <b>86,100</b>  | <b>142,400</b> | <b>49,600</b>  |
| Annual Services Inquiry  | 14,000         | 15,300         | 15,500         | 11,300         |
| Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises)                                  | 10,100         | 13,100         | 14,300         | 8,900          |
| Census of Industrial Production (Local Units)                                  | 1,000          | 800            | 900            | 900            |
| Building and Construction Inquiry (formerly Census of Building & Construction) | 1,400          | 4,600          | 3,700          | 3,700          |
| PRODCOM Inquiry  | 1,800          | 1,900          | 1,600          | 1,500          |
| Business Profile Inquiry   | 4,100          | 200            | :              | :              |
| Business Register Inquiry  | 7,200          | 2,200          | :              | :              |
| National Employment Survey   | :              | 21,700         | 23,700         | :              |
| e-Commerce Survey  | 1,500          | 2,000          | 2,000          | 2,800          |
| Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey  | :              | 100            | 200            | 300            |
| Business Energy Use Survey   | :              | :              | 2,900          | 1,700          |
| Access to Finance Survey   | :              | :              | 600            | :              |
| Road Freight Transport Survey  | 8,200          | 9,800          | 12,700         | 9,500          |
| June Agriculture Survey/Farm Structures Survey <sup>1</sup>                    | 47,300         | 8,800          | 59,700         | 6,600          |
| December Agriculture Survey  | 9,300          | 5,600          | 4,500          | 2,500          |
| <b>Bi-annual Surveys</b>   | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       |
| Pig Survey   | 0              | 0              | 0              | 0              |
| <b>Quarterly Surveys</b>   | <b>38,800</b>  | <b>98,100</b>  | <b>57,600</b>  | <b>44,700</b>  |
| Balance of Payments inquiries <sup>2</sup>                                     | 17,100         | 21,400         | 19,900         | 20,100         |
| EHECS Survey   | :              | 63,000         | 30,900         | 18,300         |
| Quarterly Assets Inquiry (formerly Quarterly Accounts Inquiry)                 | 15,800         | 8,000          | 2,400          | 2,100          |
| Quarterly Accounts Inquiry to Industry   | 2,600          | 2,700          | 2,200          | 1,800          |
| Quarterly Survey of Construction   | 2,600          | 2,800          | 2,000          | 2,100          |
| Earnings and Hours Worked in Construction                                      | 600            | :              | :              | :              |
| Services Producer Prices Inquiry   | :              | 200            | 100            | 200            |
| <b>Monthly Surveys</b>   | <b>11,100</b>  | <b>13,100</b>  | <b>12,300</b>  | <b>10,500</b>  |
| Monthly Industrial Inquiry   | 6,700          | 6,100          | 5,300          | 3,600          |
| Retail Sales Index   | 2,600          | 3,300          | 3,100          | 2,900          |
| Index of Employment in Construction Survey                                     | 1,100          | :              | :              | :              |
| Wholesale Price Inquiry  | 700            | 800            | 900            | 900            |
| Import Price Index   | :              | 100            | 100            | 100            |
| Monthly Services (Turnover)  | :              | 2,800          | 3,000          | 3,000          |
| <b>Surveys conducted jointly with other Government bodies</b>                  | <b>186,300</b> | <b>188,800</b> | <b>193,700</b> | <b>187,600</b> |
| Business Expenditure on Research and Development                               | :              | :              | 1,000          | :              |
| Community Innovation Survey  | :              | 1,800          | :              | 1,800          |
| Intrastat Imports Survey   | 169,500        | 171,200        | 175,900        | 168,700        |
| Intrastat Exports Survey   | 16,800         | 15,800         | 16,800         | 17,100         |
| <b>All Surveys</b>   | <b>342,100</b> | <b>386,100</b> | <b>406,100</b> | <b>292,500</b> |

<sup>1</sup> 2010 figures reflect the expansion into the decennial Census of Agriculture

<sup>2</sup> Covers the surveys BoP10, BoP30, BoP40, BoP42, BoP43, BoP44, BoP45, and BoP46, and includes forms issued annually

: Not applicable

**Table 6 Time, actual compliance (forms returned) basis, by survey - hours**

| Survey   | 2005           | 2009           | 2010           | 2011           |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Annual Surveys</b>  | <b>67,400</b>  | <b>53,500</b>  | <b>97,900</b>  | <b>30,200</b>  |
| Annual Services Inquiry  | 9,300          | 10,900         | 8,700          | 5,500          |
| Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises)                                  | 7,600          | 7,200          | 7,500          | 5,200          |
| Census of Industrial Production (Local Units)                                  | 900            | 800            | 900            | 800            |
| Building and Construction Inquiry (formerly Census of Building & Construction) | 1,100          | 2,400          | 2,000          | 1,900          |
| PRODCOM Inquiry  | 1,100          | 1,200          | 1,000          | 1,100          |
| Business Profile Inquiry   | 2,200          | 100            | :              | :              |
| Business Register Inquiry  | 4,900          | 1,200          | :              | :              |
| National Employment Survey   | :              | 10,800         | 13,100         | :              |
| e-Commerce Survey  | 800            | 1,100          | 900            | 1,500          |
| Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey  | :              | 100            | 200            | 200            |
| Business Energy Use Survey   | :              | :              | 1,700          | 900            |
| Access to Finance Survey   | :              | :              | 300            | :              |
| Road Freight Transport Survey  | 3,700          | 5,200          | 6,200          | 5,800          |
| June Agriculture Survey/Farm Structures Survey <sup>1</sup>                    | 29,100         | 7,500          | 53,000         | 5,000          |
| December Agriculture Survey  | 6,700          | 5,000          | 2,500          | 2,300          |
| <b>Bi-annual Surveys</b>   | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       |
| Pig Survey   | 0              | 0              | 0              | 0              |
| <b>Quarterly Surveys</b>   | <b>30,300</b>  | <b>67,100</b>  | <b>41,200</b>  | <b>32,100</b>  |
| Balance of Payments inquiries <sup>2</sup>                                     | 15,500         | 19,700         | 18,700         | 18,100         |
| EHECS Survey   | :              | 39,300         | 18,600         | 10,700         |
| Quarterly Assets Inquiry (formerly Quarterly Accounts Inquiry)                 | 11,100         | 4,600          | 1,400          | 1,300          |
| Quarterly Accounts Inquiry to Industry   | 1,600          | 1,700          | 1,400          | 900            |
| Quarterly Survey of Construction   | 1,700          | 1,600          | 1,000          | 900            |
| Earnings and Hours Worked in Construction                                      | 400            | :              | :              | :              |
| Services Producer Prices Inquiry   | :              | 100            | 100            | 200            |
| <b>Monthly Surveys</b>   | <b>7,800</b>   | <b>8,300</b>   | <b>7,900</b>   | <b>6,800</b>   |
| Monthly Industrial Inquiry   | 4,400          | 3,700          | 3,300          | 2,300          |
| Retail Sales Index   | 2,100          | 2,200          | 2,100          | 2,000          |
| Index of Employment in Construction Survey                                     | 800            | :              | :              | :              |
| Wholesale Price Inquiry  | 500            | 500            | 500            | 500            |
| Import Price Index   | :              | 100            | 100            | 100            |
| Monthly Services (Turnover)  | :              | 1,800          | 1,800          | 1,900          |
| <b>Surveys conducted jointly with other Government bodies</b>                  | <b>172,700</b> | <b>172,000</b> | <b>166,200</b> | <b>155,500</b> |
| Business Expenditure on Research and Development                               | :              | :              | 600            | :              |
| Community Innovation Survey  | :              | 800            | :              | 1,300          |
| Intrastat Imports Survey <sup>3</sup>  | 158,100        | 156,900        | 151,200        | 140,100        |
| Intrastat Exports Survey   | 14,600         | 14,200         | 14,300         | 14,100         |
| <b>All Surveys</b>   | <b>278,300</b> | <b>300,900</b> | <b>313,200</b> | <b>224,600</b> |

<sup>1</sup> 2010 figures reflect the expansion into the decennial Census of Agriculture

<sup>2</sup> Covers the surveys BoP10, BoP30, BoP40, BoP42, BoP43, BoP44, BoP45, and BoP46, and includes forms issued annually

<sup>3</sup> All years revised to remove blank and imputed returns

: Not applicable

**Table 7 Average time to complete a single return, by survey - minutes**

| Survey   | 2005         | 2009         | 2010         | 2011         |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Annual Surveys</b>  | <b>29.4</b>  | <b>31.7</b>  | <b>31.6</b>  | <b>28.6</b>  |
| Annual Services Inquiry  | 50.2         | 38.3         | 41.5         | 41.3         |
| Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises)                                  | 129.3        | 140.1        | 153.5        | 152.7        |
| Census of Industrial Production (Local Units)                                  | 111.2        | 105.1        | 115.1        | 114.5        |
| Building and Construction Inquiry (formerly Census of Building & Construction) | 117.4        | 58.8         | 48.1         | 48.1         |
| PRODCOM Inquiry  | 24.0         | 23.8         | 22.8         | 22.3         |
| Business Profile Inquiry   | 12.3         | 5.8          | :            | :            |
| Business Register Inquiry  | 15.4         | 5.8          | :            | :            |
| National Employment Survey   | :            | 110.1        | 122.1        | :            |
| e-Commerce Survey  | 15.4         | 16.4         | 17.5         | 19.0         |
| Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey  | :            | 17.1         | 22.5         | 42.8         |
| Business Energy Use Survey   | :            | :            | 31.0         | 27.2         |
| Access to Finance Survey   | :            | :            | 11.7         | :            |
| Road Freight Transport Survey  | 18.5         | 16.6         | 21.0         | 21.0         |
| June Agriculture Survey/Farm Structures Survey                                 | 33.3         | 27.8         | 25.9         | 19.8         |
| December Agriculture Survey  | 18.6         | 18.5         | 15.4         | 15.6         |
| <b>Bi-annual Surveys</b>   | <b>4.0</b>   | <b>4.0</b>   | <b>4.0</b>   | <b>4.1</b>   |
| Pig Survey   | 4.0          | 4.0          | 4.0          | 4.0          |
| <b>Quarterly Surveys</b>   | <b>43.4</b>  | <b>79.4</b>  | <b>63.8</b>  | <b>53.9</b>  |
| Balance of Payments inquiries <sup>1</sup>                                     | 420.0        | 420.0        | 420.0        | 420.0        |
| EHECS Survey   | :            | 95.0         | 63.4         | 40.0         |
| Quarterly Assets Inquiry (formerly Quarterly Accounts Inquiry)                 | 23.4         | 22.3         | 9.7          | 8.8          |
| Quarterly Accounts Inquiry to Industry   | 21.7         | 23.0         | 20.6         | 19.3         |
| Quarterly Survey of Construction   | 18.4         | 18.4         | 12.5         | 13.7         |
| Earnings and Hours Worked in Construction                                      | 20.7         | :            | :            | :            |
| Services Producer Prices Inquiry   | :            | 8.1          | 6.8          | 7.6          |
| <b>Monthly Surveys</b>   | <b>9.7</b>   | <b>9.3</b>   | <b>9.1</b>   | <b>8.2</b>   |
| Monthly Industrial Inquiry   | 17.0         | 17.7         | 17.7         | 14.4         |
| Retail Sales Index   | 6.8          | 6.8          | 6.8          | 6.8          |
| Index of Employment in Construction Survey                                     | 5.2          | :            | :            | :            |
| Wholesale Price Inquiry  | 6.0          | 5.6          | 6.4          | 6.2          |
| Import Price Index   | :            | 10.1         | 7.9          | 7.8          |
| Monthly Services (Turnover)  | :            | 6.8          | 6.8          | 6.8          |
| <b>Surveys conducted jointly with other Government bodies</b>                  | <b>106.3</b> | <b>104.7</b> | <b>104.0</b> | <b>102.2</b> |
| Business Expenditure on Research and Development                               | :            | :            | 17.6         | :            |
| Community Innovation Survey  | :            | 23.4         | :            | 23.0         |
| Intrastat Imports Survey   | 123.0        | 123.0        | 123.0        | 123.0        |
| Intrastat Exports Survey   | 43.0         | 43.0         | 43.0         | 43.0         |
| <b>All Surveys</b>   | <b>51.2</b>  | <b>59.2</b>  | <b>50.3</b>  | <b>56.0</b>  |

<sup>1</sup> Expert assessment based on contacts with a small sample of respondents

: Not applicable

**Table 8 Administrative Costs, full compliance (forms issued), by survey - euro, 2005 prices**

| Survey   | 2005              | 2009              | 2010              | 2011              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Annual Surveys</b>  | <b>4,746,900</b>  | <b>3,858,100</b>  | <b>6,384,600</b>  | <b>2,225,100</b>  |
| Annual Services Inquiry  | 627,700           | 686,700           | 694,300           | 505,000           |
| Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises)                                  | 452,800           | 586,700           | 642,800           | 399,300           |
| Census of Industrial Production (Local Units)                                  | 46,700            | 37,400            | 40,000            | 38,600            |
| Building and Construction Inquiry (formerly Census of Building & Construction) | 64,600            | 204,700           | 167,100           | 165,300           |
| PRODCOM Inquiry  | 80,000            | 86,700            | 73,400            | 68,100            |
| Business Profile Inquiry   | 183,700           | 7,500             | :                 | :                 |
| Business Register Inquiry  | 321,100           | 96,700            | :                 | :                 |
| National Employment Survey   | :                 | 972,300           | 1,063,100         | :                 |
| e-Commerce Survey  | 67,100            | 89,600            | 91,100            | 126,900           |
| Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey  | :                 | 6,000             | 10,000            | 13,000            |
| Business Energy Use Survey   | :                 | :                 | 129,200           | 74,300            |
| Access to Finance Survey   | :                 | :                 | 26,200            | :                 |
| Road Freight Transport Survey  | 367,200           | 438,800           | 570,800           | 426,200           |
| June Agriculture Survey/Farm Structures Survey <sup>1</sup>                    | 2,119,500         | 393,500           | 2,675,700         | 295,900           |
| December Agriculture Survey  | 416,700           | 251,600           | 201,000           | 112,500           |
| <b>Bi-annual Surveys</b>   | <b>2,100</b>      | <b>2,100</b>      | <b>2,100</b>      | <b>2,100</b>      |
| Pig Survey   | 2,100             | 2,100             | 2,100             | 2,100             |
| <b>Quarterly Surveys</b>   | <b>1,737,800</b>  | <b>4,397,200</b>  | <b>2,581,700</b>  | <b>2,003,000</b>  |
| Balance of Payments inquiries <sup>2</sup>                                     | 766,300           | 958,100           | 892,200           | 901,600           |
| EHECS Survey   | :                 | 2,824,400         | 1,386,500         | 822,000           |
| Quarterly Assets Inquiry (formerly Quarterly Accounts Inquiry)                 | 708,400           | 358,700           | 109,200           | 95,200            |
| Quarterly Accounts Inquiry to Industry   | 116,800           | 122,400           | 99,600            | 81,900            |
| Quarterly Survey of Construction   | 118,500           | 126,700           | 88,800            | 94,800            |
| Earnings and Hours Worked in Construction                                      | 27,700            | :                 | :                 | :                 |
| Services Producer Prices Inquiry   | :                 | 6,900             | 5,500             | 7,600             |
| <b>Monthly Surveys</b>   | <b>498,300</b>    | <b>588,400</b>    | <b>553,400</b>    | <b>472,600</b>    |
| Monthly Industrial Inquiry   | 301,900           | 273,400           | 236,600           | 162,100           |
| Retail Sales Index   | 118,000           | 145,800           | 137,000           | 129,900           |
| Index of Employment in Construction Survey                                     | 49,000            | :                 | :                 | :                 |
| Wholesale Price Inquiry  | 29,400            | 37,200            | 41,600            | 40,400            |
| Import Price Index   | :                 | 6,700             | 5,100             | 4,500             |
| Monthly Services (Turnover)  | :                 | 125,200           | 133,000           | 135,700           |
| <b>Surveys conducted jointly with other Government bodies</b>                  | <b>8,352,900</b>  | <b>8,465,000</b>  | <b>8,685,400</b>  | <b>8,409,200</b>  |
| Business Expenditure on Research and Development                               | :                 | :                 | 45,800            | :                 |
| Community Innovation Survey  | :                 | 81,300            | :                 | 79,800            |
| Intrastat Imports Survey   | 7,598,100         | 7,674,900         | 7,887,400         | 7,562,100         |
| Intrastat Exports Survey   | 754,700           | 708,800           | 752,200           | 767,300           |
| <b>All Surveys</b>   | <b>15,338,000</b> | <b>17,310,800</b> | <b>18,207,300</b> | <b>13,112,000</b> |

<sup>1</sup> 2010 figures reflect the expansion into the decennial Census of Agriculture

<sup>2</sup> Covers the surveys BoP10, BoP30, BoP40, BoP42, BoP43, BoP44, BoP45, and BoP46, and includes forms issued annually

: Not applicable

**Table 9 Administrative Costs, actual compliance (forms returned), by survey - euro, 2005 prices**

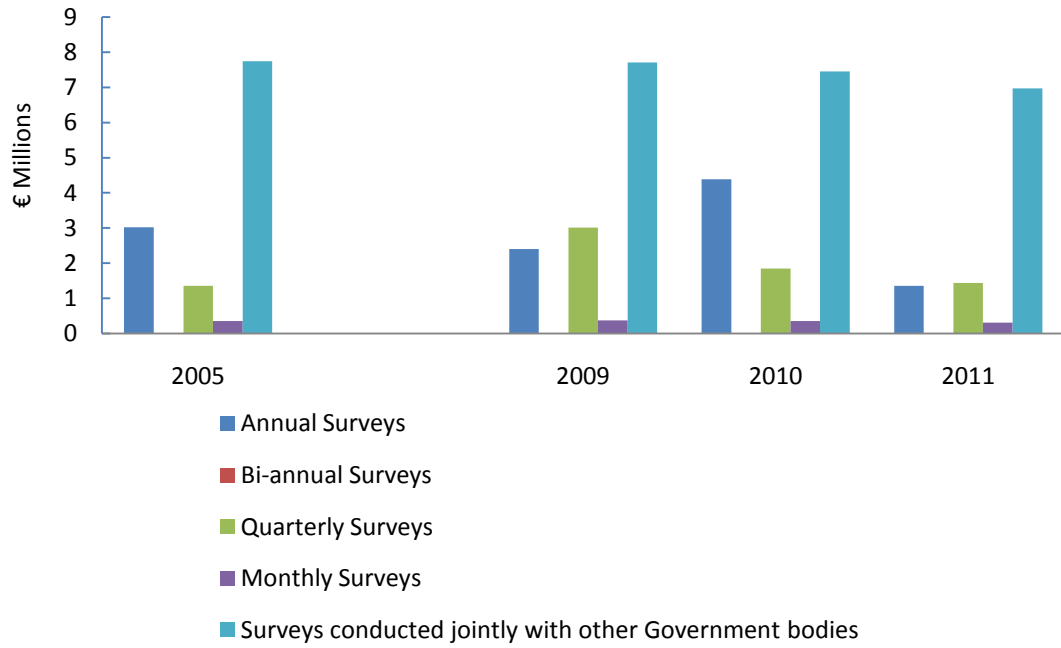
| Survey   | 2005              | 2009              | 2010              | 2011              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Annual Surveys</b>  | <b>3,022,300</b>  | <b>2,397,900</b>  | <b>4,390,200</b>  | <b>1,352,300</b>  |
| Annual Services Inquiry  | 418,700           | 490,100           | 392,200           | 248,500           |
| Census of Industrial Production (Enterprises)                                  | 341,100           | 321,600           | 338,300           | 231,900           |
| Census of Industrial Production (Local Units)                                  | 39,200            | 34,800            | 38,400            | 37,100            |
| Building and Construction Inquiry (formerly Census of Building & Construction) | 48,900            | 106,500           | 87,700            | 86,300            |
| PRODCOM Inquiry  | 47,900            | 54,700            | 45,100            | 49,400            |
| Business Profile Inquiry   | 98,200            | 4,800             | :                 | :                 |
| Business Register Inquiry  | 221,500           | 55,400            | :                 | :                 |
| National Employment Survey   | :                 | 486,200           | 585,400           | :                 |
| e-Commerce Survey  | 34,400            | 47,500            | 40,600            | 66,400            |
| Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey  | :                 | 3,500             | 7,300             | 8,200             |
| Business Energy Use Survey   | :                 | :                 | 75,700            | 38,300            |
| Access to Finance Survey   | :                 | :                 | 13,800            | :                 |
| Road Freight Transport Survey  | 165,200           | 233,500           | 278,600           | 260,100           |
| June Agriculture Survey/Farm Structures Survey <sup>1</sup>                    | 1,304,700         | 334,600           | 2,374,300         | 223,300           |
| December Agriculture Survey  | 302,400           | 224,700           | 113,100           | 102,700           |
| <b>Bi-annual Surveys</b>   | <b>1,900</b>      | <b>2,000</b>      | <b>2,000</b>      | <b>1,800</b>      |
| Pig Survey   | 1,900             | 2,000             | 2,000             | 1,800             |
| <b>Quarterly Surveys</b>   | <b>1,359,100</b>  | <b>3,009,500</b>  | <b>1,845,800</b>  | <b>1,441,200</b>  |
| Balance of Payments inquiries <sup>2</sup>                                     | 693,500           | 884,000           | 838,200           | 812,100           |
| EHECS Survey   | :                 | 1,763,700         | 833,100           | 479,900           |
| Quarterly Assets Inquiry (formerly Quarterly Accounts Inquiry)                 | 499,300           | 208,100           | 63,100            | 58,000            |
| Quarterly Accounts Inquiry to Industry   | 72,600            | 74,700            | 62,100            | 41,900            |
| Quarterly Survey of Construction   | 74,300            | 73,500            | 44,700            | 41,800            |
| Earnings and Hours Worked in Construction                                      | 19,400            | :                 | :                 | :                 |
| Services Producer Prices Inquiry   | :                 | 5,600             | 4,600             | 7,400             |
| <b>Monthly Surveys</b>   | <b>350,800</b>    | <b>371,400</b>    | <b>354,700</b>    | <b>304,900</b>    |
| Monthly Industrial Inquiry   | 196,600           | 167,700           | 149,100           | 102,200           |
| Retail Sales Index   | 94,000            | 98,200            | 95,900            | 89,800            |
| Index of Employment in Construction Survey                                     | 35,700            | :                 | :                 | :                 |
| Wholesale Price Inquiry  | 24,500            | 23,400            | 24,400            | 23,800            |
| Import Price Index   | :                 | 3,500             | 3,400             | 3,300             |
| Monthly Services (Turnover)  | :                 | 78,500            | 82,000            | 85,700            |
| <b>Surveys conducted jointly with other Government bodies</b>                  | <b>7,742,000</b>  | <b>7,709,400</b>  | <b>7,448,700</b>  | <b>6,969,400</b>  |
| Business Expenditure on Research and Development                               | :                 | :                 | 28,700            | :                 |
| Community Innovation Survey  | :                 | 38,100            | :                 | 56,400            |
| Intrastat Imports Survey   | 7,087,400         | 7,033,700         | 6,778,900         | 6,281,100         |
| Intrastat Exports Survey   | 654,700           | 637,700           | 641,100           | 632,000           |
| <b>All Surveys</b>   | <b>12,476,100</b> | <b>13,490,200</b> | <b>14,041,400</b> | <b>10,069,600</b> |

<sup>1</sup> 2010 figures reflect the expansion into the decennial Census of Agriculture

<sup>2</sup> Covers the surveys BoP10, BoP30, BoP40, BoP42, BoP43, BoP44, BoP45, and BoP46, and includes forms issued annually

: Not applicable

**Figure 2 Administrative Costs by survey type, actual compliance - 2005 prices**



## Background Notes

### Minimising survey response burden

Notwithstanding the ever-growing international demand for statistics (from organisations such as the European Commission, the European Central Bank, the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, etc.), minimising the administrative burden placed on CSO business respondents is, and has been for many years, a corporate priority of the CSO. (See the CSO's *Statement of Strategy 2012-2014*<sup>1</sup>) The CSO has taken, and continues to take, a number of actions towards this end. Amongst these actions are:-

- Increased use of administrative data (especially from the Revenue Commissioners), reducing the need to collect information from enterprises;
- Reduction of sample sizes where possible;
- Reduction of the level of detail collected on questionnaires across a number of surveys;
- Introduction of short annual forms for small enterprises, with the more detailed forms being sent to the larger enterprises only;
- Re-design of questionnaires to align as far as possible with Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet accounts entries;
- Working with software companies to incorporate functionality into payroll software programs which automatically extracts and completes almost all of the requirements of the Earnings, Hours and Employment Costs Survey and a large portion of the requirements of the National Employment Survey.

In the case of Ireland it should be noted that most, but not all, government statistical inquiries are conducted by the CSO, and that all CSO surveys are driven by EU legislation with limited scope for national interpretation during implementation. The above actions have been possible within the strictures of the governing EU legislation.

### Measurement methodology

The information in this report is presented on an annualised basis. Thus the figures presented for a quarterly survey, for example, represent the sum of four (quarterly) survey instances in the relevant year.

Details of the number of survey forms issued and the number of survey forms returned (partially or wholly completed) were obtained from each business survey section within the CSO.

#### *Completion time*

With the exception of the Balance of Payments surveys and Intrastat, the average time taken to complete a single survey form was derived from responses to the question "How long did it take you to complete this form?" included on the survey forms.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/corporatepublications/StatementofStrategy201214.pdf>

For the Balance of Payments surveys, estimates of the average time taken were made by survey experts based on contacts with a small sample of respondents.

For each survey, the burden on Irish business, in terms of hours, was calculated as the product of the total number of survey forms issued (full compliance basis) or returned (actual compliance basis) by the average time taken to complete a single form.

### *Intrastat*

Intrastat was included in a Standard Cost Model (SCM) measurement conducted on behalf of Forfás and detailed in the report *Assessment of The Costs Of Trade-Related Regulatory Requirements in Ireland*<sup>1</sup>. This measurement, based on interviews with 24 business enterprises, found that reporting Intrastat arrivals (or “imports”) for businesses with less than fifty commodity codes took an average of 2 hours per form, while reporting Intrastat arrivals for businesses with fifty or more commodity codes took an average of 15 hours per form. Regarding Intrastat dispatches (or “exports”), the Forfás study found that reporting Intrastat dispatches for businesses with less than fifty commodity codes took an average of 45 minutes per form, while reporting Intrastat dispatches for businesses with fifty or more commodity codes took an average of 2 hours per form.

The Intrastat survey is conducted jointly between the CSO and the VIMA Branch of the Office of the Revenue Commissioners. From this survey, detailed information on the number of Intrastat returns and on the number of commodity codes reported in each return is available for analysis by the CSO.

Weighting the two Forfás time figures for Intrastat arrivals above by the CSO data on the number of enterprises having arrivals of less than fifty commodity codes/arrivals of fifty or more commodity codes leads to a figure for average time taken to complete an Intrastat arrivals form of approximately 123 minutes (2.05 hours). Similarly, weighting the two Forfás Intrastat dispatches time figures by the CSO data on the number of enterprises having dispatches of less than fifty commodity codes/dispatches of fifty or more commodity codes leads to a figure for average time taken to complete an Intrastat dispatches form of approximately 43 minutes (0.72 hours). Note these timings are subject to change, as a burden measurement exercise for Intrastat is planned for 2012.

### *Administrative Costs*

The hourly administrative cost was based on the National Employment Survey (NES) 2005 “Managers and administrators” average hourly earnings, €31.18. Figures from the Earnings, Hours and Employment Costs survey suggest that total labour costs are approximately 15% greater than earnings. Accordingly, the NES earnings figure was increased by 15%. An additional 25% was added to represent the cost of overheads, this percentage being suggested in the *International Standard Cost Model Manual*<sup>2</sup>. Thus, the hourly administrative cost figure used in the calculations was €44.83. This figure was multiplied by the total number of hours taken, on both a full and actual compliance basis, to arrive at the total administrative costs (full and actual compliance) of CSO surveys to Irish business.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.forfas.ie/media/100329forfas-single-window-report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.administrative-burdens.com/filesystem/2005/11/international\\_scm\\_manual\\_final\\_178.doc](http://www.administrative-burdens.com/filesystem/2005/11/international_scm_manual_final_178.doc)



## *Derivation of Administrative Burden*

Business-as-usual costs are those administrative costs which the business would incur even if there were no regulation (survey) in place. Administrative burden is defined as administrative costs less business-as-usual costs. Note that administrative burden can not be determined at individual survey level without resort to interviews with respondents on business-as-usual costs for each survey. However, the *Standard Cost Model Report*<sup>1</sup> found, based on a measurement conducted for reference year 2007, that the administrative burden of CSO surveys was 60.32% of the administrative costs figure. This proportion was applied for all years in the present report to derive administrative burden from administrative costs at the all-surveys level.

### **Deviations from the Standard Cost Model methodology**

The SCM methodology, as laid out in the *International Standard Cost Model Manual*, recommends that the time expended by business in complying with regulation be obtained by means of interviews with a small sample of enterprises. In this report, the time expended in partially or wholly completing a survey form is calculated (with two exceptions) by averaging the responses to the question “How long did it take you to complete this form?” included on the survey form. This statistically-rigorous approach is advocated in the European Statistical System (ESS) for measurement of burden due to statistical surveys.

The SCM methodology specifies measurement on a full-compliance basis. In the case of a statistical survey, full compliance would mean that every survey form, once issued, is subsequently completed (partially or wholly) and returned. The ESS, recognising that statistical surveys are different from general government regulation, recommends that burden due to statistical surveys be calculated on an actual compliance basis.

This report presents results on the basis of full compliance and also on the basis of actual compliance. The full compliance figures, notwithstanding the qualifications above, may be deemed to be an approximation of figures which would be obtained with a strict adherence to the SCM methodology. The actual compliance figures are the basis on which the CSO provides annual administrative burden estimates to Eurostat, the Directorate-General of the European Commission with responsibility for official EU statistics.

### **Active business enterprises**

The figures shown for number of active business enterprises in Table 2 are based on the CSO’s Central Business Register (for non-farming enterprises) and the results of the Farm Structures Surveys of 2005, 2007 and 2010. Businesses are known to be active or otherwise from administrative records provided to the CSO by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners and by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The figures cover sections A through S of the NACE Rev. 2 activity classification. (See table below.)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/otherreleases/stdcostmodrep.pdf>

## NACE Rev. 2 classification, section level

| Section | Description  |
|---------|--|
| A       | Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing  |
| B       | Mining and Quarrying   |
| C       | Manufacturing  |
| D       | Electricity, Gas and Water Supply  |
| E       | Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities  |
| F       | Construction   |
| G       | Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles   |
| H       | Transport and Storage  |
| I       | Accommodation and Food Service Activities  |
| J       | Information and Communication  |
| K       | Financial and Insurance Activities   |
| L       | Real Estate Activities   |
| M       | Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities  |
| N       | Administrative and Support Service Activities  |
| O       | Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security  |
| P       | Education  |
| Q       | Human Health and Social Work Activities  |
| R       | Arts, Entertainment and Recreation   |
| S       | Other Service Activities   |
| T       | Activities of Households as Employers; Undifferentiated Goods- and Services-producing Activities of Households for Own Use |
| U       | Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies  |