We are delighted to join in publishing the fourth edition of the North-South Statistical Profile, which draws together official social and economic statistics for both parts of Ireland and tracks change over time. Previous editions were published in 2001, 2003 and 2004.

The publication inevitably focuses on the areas where broadly comparable data are readily available. Successive editions of the publication have sought to enhance and expand the policy areas covered by the first edition. This edition incorporates additional data in almost all of the policy areas, particularly so for the areas of economy and tourism. This edition also includes, for the first time, a chapter devoted to crime and justice.

We trust that this statistical overview will continue to be of value to government departments and agencies, and to the cross-border bodies established under the Belfast Agreement. It should also be of interest to those who wish to study the dynamics of social and economic change in the two parts of Ireland.

We are grateful to the staff of our respective organisations who undertook the painstaking work of identifying data sources, checking them for comparability, compiling the tables and footnotes and drafting the commentary at the beginning of each chapter. We also want to record our appreciation to the Central Statistics Office’s Publications Unit in Cork, who were responsible for designing and typesetting the report.

This report is being published on the CSO and NISRA websites and is also available in hard copy from both organisations.
CHAPTER 1

Population and Vital Statistics

Table 1.1 Population by gender 5

Figure 1.1 Population, 1901-2006 6

Table 1.2 Population by gender and age, 2006 7

Table 1.3 Intercensal population change 8

Figure 1.2 Percentage population change over the four decades 1961-2001 8

Table 1.4 Births 9

Figure 1.3 Birth rate per 1,000 population 9

Table 1.5 Births by age of mother 10

Table 1.6 Most popular babies’ names 11

Table 1.7 Deaths 12

Figure 1.4 Death rate per 1,000 population 12

Table 1.8 Life expectancy at birth and at 65 years 13

Table 1.9 Marriages 14

Table 1.10 Divorce applications granted 15

Table 1.11 Total EU population, 2006 16

Table 1.12 EU births, deaths, net migration 17

Technical Notes 18
CHAPTER 2

Housing and Households

Table 2.1 Household size 23
Table 2.2 (a) Household tenure in the Republic of Ireland 24
Table 2.2 (b) Household tenure in Northern Ireland 24
Table 2.3 An assessment of overcrowding: difference from the 'bedroom standard' by tenure, 2004-05 25
Table 2.4 Dwellings completed 26

Figure 2.1 Growth rates in total dwellings completed, 2001-2006 26

Table 2.5 Average new house prices 27

Figure 2.2 Growth rate in new house prices, 1996-2006 27

Table 2.6 Average gross weekly household income by source, 2005-06 28
Table 2.7 Weekly household expenditure on goods and services, 2004-05 29
Table 2.8 Expenditure per household per week on various food items 30
Table 2.9 Households with consumer durables 31
Table 2.10 Percentage of households accessing the Internet from home 31
Table 2.11 Percentage of EU households having access to the Internet at home 32

Technical Notes 33-34
# Chapter 3

## Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.1</td>
<td>Acute hospital statistics</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 3.1</td>
<td><em>Number of day cases in publicly funded acute hospitals, 2000-2006</em></td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.2</td>
<td>Attendances at accident and emergency departments</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.3 (a)</td>
<td>Age-standardised discharge rates for in-patients per 100,000 population in the Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.3 (b)</td>
<td>Age-standardised discharge rates for in-patients per 100,000 population in Northern Ireland</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.4 (a)</td>
<td>Principal cause of death in the Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.4 (b)</td>
<td>Principal cause of death in Northern Ireland</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.5</td>
<td>Cancer deaths</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 3.2</td>
<td><em>Total cancer deaths, 1970-2000; 2004-06</em></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 3.3</td>
<td><em>Age-standardised cancer death rates per 100,000 population, 1970-2000; 2004-06</em></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.6 (a)</td>
<td>Prevalence of cigarette smoking in the Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.6 (b)</td>
<td>Prevalence of cigarette smoking in Northern Ireland</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.7 (a)</td>
<td>Prevalence of drinking alcohol in the Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.7 (b)</td>
<td>Prevalence of drinking alcohol in Northern Ireland</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.8</td>
<td>Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland drug prevalence rates by gender, 2006/2007</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.9 (a)</td>
<td>Self-reported Body Mass Index (BMI) by age and sex in the Republic of Ireland, 2007</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.9 (b)</td>
<td>Independently assessed Body Mass Index (BMI) by age and sex in Northern Ireland, 2005/2006</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.10</td>
<td>Availability of hospital curative care beds across the EU – rate per 100,000 inhabitants</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3.11</td>
<td>Infant mortality rates – per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Technical Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education

Table 4.1  Schools, pupils and teachers 62
Figure 4.1  Indexed change in the number of first level pupils, 2000/01 to 2006/07 (2000/01 = 100) 63
Table 4.2  Pupil:Teacher ratios 64
Table 4.3  Single sex and co-educational second level schools 65
Table 4.4  Examinations candidates 66
Table 4.5 (a)  Number of examination candidates for the top ten subjects in the Republic of Ireland 67
Table 4.5 (b)  Number of examination candidates for the top ten subjects in Northern Ireland 68
Table 4.6 (a)  Higher education enrolments in the Republic of Ireland 69
Table 4.6 (b)  Higher education enrolments in Northern Ireland 69
Table 4.7 (a)  First destinations of leavers from higher education in the Republic of Ireland 70
Table 4.7 (b)  First destinations of leavers from higher education in Northern Ireland 70
Figure 4.2 (a)  First destinations of leavers from higher education in the Republic of Ireland, 2005/06 71
Figure 4.2 (b)  First destinations of leavers from higher education in Northern Ireland, 2005/06 71
Table 4.8  Students in tertiary education 72
Technical Notes 73
CHAPTER 5

Labour Market

Table 5.1 International Labour Organisation (ILO) economic status 79

Figure 5.1 Employment rates: 1996; 2002-2006 80

Figure 5.2 Unemployment rates: 1996; 2002-2006 81

Table 5.2 (a) Males by ILO economic status 82

Table 5.2 (b) Females by ILO economic status 83

Table 5.3 (a) Labour force participation rates by age in the Republic of Ireland 85

Table 5.3 (b) Labour force participation rates by age in Northern Ireland 85

Table 5.4 (a) Persons of working age in employment by gender and industry, Spring 1996 86

Table 5.4 (b) Persons of working age in employment by gender and industry, Spring 2006 87

Figure 5.3 Persons of working age in employment by industry, 1996 89

Figure 5.4 Persons of working age in employment by industry, 2006 89

Table 5.5 (a) Median gross weekly earnings by industrial sector for all employees (full- and part-time), Republic of Ireland, 2006 90

Table 5.5 (b) Median gross weekly earnings by industrial sector for all employees (full- and part-time), Northern Ireland, 2006 91

Table 5.6 Median gross weekly earnings by occupation for all employees (full- and part-time), 2006 92

Table 5.7 (a) Median gross hourly earnings by industrial sector for full-time employees, Republic of Ireland, 2006 93

Table 5.7 (b) Median gross hourly earnings by industrial sector for full-time employees, Northern Ireland, 2006 94

Table 5.8 Median gross hourly earnings by occupation for full-time employees, 2006 95

Table 5.9 Average hours worked per week 96

Figure 5.5 Average hours worked per week: 1996; 2002-2006 97

Table 5.10 (a) Estimates of persons of working-age by nationality and economic status, Republic of Ireland, Spring 2006 98
CHAPTER 5

Labour Market continued

Table 5.10 (b) Estimates of persons of working-age by nationality and economic status, Northern Ireland, Spring 2006 98

Table 5.11 Claimants of welfare benefits associated with unemployment 99

Table 5.12 Working age persons not in the labour force, Spring 2006 100

Table 5.13 European comparisons of ILO employment and unemployment 101

Technical Notes 102-104
Contents

CHAPTER 6

ECONOMY

Table 6.1  Gross Value Added (GVA) and GVA per person at current prices 109
Table 6.2  Gross Value Added per person – nominal growth 110
Figure 6.1  Gross Value Added per person – nominal growth, 1996-2006 110
Table 6.3 (a)  Turnover, Gross Value Added and employment costs for selected broad industrial sectors in the Republic of Ireland, 2001-2005 111
Table 6.3 (b)  Turnover, Gross Value Added and employment costs for selected broad industrial sectors in Northern Ireland, 2001-2005 112
Table 6.4  VAT registrations 113
Table 6.5  Foreign-owned enterprises 114
Table 6.6  Gross disposable household income (GDHI) at current prices 115
Table 6.7  Business expenditure on research & development as percentage of Gross Value Added 115
Table 6.8  Use of ICT by businesses for placing and receiving orders 116
Table 6.9  Seasonally adjusted value of internal manufacturing trade between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland 117
Table 6.10 (a)  Manufacturing exports as a percentage of Gross Value Added in the Republic of Ireland 118
Table 6.10 (b)  Manufacturing exports as a percentage of Gross Value Added in Northern Ireland 118
Table 6.11  Percentage of firms, by employee size, engaged in innovative activity 118
Table 6.12  EU Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 119
Table 6.13  EU Gross Domestic Product and Purchasing Power Parities (PPS) per inhabitant 120
Technical Notes 121-124
 CHAPTER 7

Tourism

Table 7.1 Total inward visits by reason for journey 129
Figure 7.1 Reasons for inward visits to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, 2006 130
Table 7.2 Visitors by region 131
Table 7.3 Tourist expenditure by category of expenditure 132
Table 7.4 Most popular fee-charging visitors attractions, 2006 133
Table 7.5 Most popular free visitor attractions, 2006 134
Table 7.6 Available accommodation 135
Table 7.7 Room occupancy in serviced accommodation 136
Table 7.8 Number of hotels and similar establishments, bedrooms and bedplaces in EU 137
Technical Notes 138-139
CHAPTER 8

Transport and Environment

Table 8.1 (a) New car registrations – ten most popular makes, Republic of Ireland 146
Table 8.1 (b) Car registrations – ten most popular makes, Northern Ireland 146
Table 8.2 (a) All first time new vehicle registrations by taxation group in the Republic of Ireland 147
Table 8.2 (b) All first time vehicle registrations by taxation group in Northern Ireland 147
Table 8.3 Stock of cars in 2006 by year of registration 148
Table 8.4 (a) Driving test pass rates by gender in the Republic of Ireland 149
Table 8.4 (b) Driving test pass rates by gender in Northern Ireland 149
Table 8.5 Bus transport 150
Table 8.6 Rail transport 151
Table 8.7 Road accident deaths by road user type 152
Table 8.8 Road freight transport activity classified by group of goods and national/international journeys, 2006 153
Table 8.9 Scheduled and chartered terminal air passenger traffic 154

Figure 8.1 Index of increase in air passenger traffic, 1997-2006 (1997=100) 155
Table 8.10 Environmental pressures - transport 156
Figure 8.2 Number of cars per 1,000 population, 1992-2005 157
Table 8.11 Greenhouse gas emissions 158
Table 8.12 Greenhouse gas emissions, CO₂ equivalent 158
Figure 8.3 Index of greenhouse gas emissions, CO₂ equivalent, 1998-2005(1998=100) 159
Table 8.13 (a) River quality in the Republic of Ireland 160
Table 8.13 (b1) Chemical river quality in Northern Ireland 160
Table 8.13 (b2) Biological river quality in Northern Ireland 160
Table 8.14 Land areas afforested 161
CHAPTER 8

Transport and Environment continued

Table 8.15 (a) Municipal waste in the Republic of Ireland 161
Table 8.15 (b) Municipal waste in Northern Ireland 161
Technical Notes 162-164
# Contents

## Chapter 9

### Agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table Reference</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.1 (a)</td>
<td>Estimated value of the agricultural output – livestock and livestock products in the Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.1 (b)</td>
<td>Estimated value of the agricultural output – livestock and livestock products in Northern Ireland</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 9.1</td>
<td>Estimated percentage distribution of agricultural output–livestock and livestock products, 2006</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.2 (a)</td>
<td>Estimated value of the agricultural output – crops, fruit and horticulture in the Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.2 (b)</td>
<td>Estimated value of the agricultural output – crops, fruit and horticulture in Northern Ireland</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.3</td>
<td>Area of agricultural land under crops, fruit, horticulture and grass</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.4</td>
<td>Livestock numbers for selected categories</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.5 (a)</td>
<td>Agricultural labour force in the Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.5 (b)</td>
<td>Agricultural labour force in Northern Ireland</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.6</td>
<td>Employment in agriculture as a proportion of total employment</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.7</td>
<td>Number and percentage of farms by size in hectares</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.8</td>
<td>Age of farmers</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.9</td>
<td>Farmers and farms engaged in other gainful activity or diversification</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.10 (a)</td>
<td>Sea fish landings by species, Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.10 (b)</td>
<td>Sea fish landings by species, Northern Ireland</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9.11</td>
<td>Number and percentage of farms in EU countries, by size of agriculture area, 2005</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Technical Notes 179
Crime and Justice

Table 10.1 (a) Recorded crime: Offences recorded in the Republic of Ireland

Figure 10.1 (a) Recorded crime: Year on year percentage change, 2006 to 2007, in the Republic of Ireland

Table 10.1 (b) Recorded crime: Offences recorded in Northern Ireland

Figure 10.1 (b) Recorded crime: Year on year percentage change, 2005-06 to 2006-07, in Northern Ireland

Table 10.2 Drugs seized

Table 10.3 Average daily number of prisoners in custody

Table 10.4 Number of sentenced prisoners in custody by age and gender at end of September 2007

Table 10.5 Number of sentenced prisoners in custody by length of sentence and gender at end of September 2007

Table 10.6 Perceptions of safety walking alone in neighbourhood/this area after dark

Table 10.7 Perceptions of safety alone in own home after dark

Table 10.8 Police strength: Full-time equivalent (FTE) officers in each rank at 1 August 2007

Technical Notes

Further Information

Contact Points
Introduction

*Ireland North and South, A Statistical Profile* has been jointly prepared by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in the Republic of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Both organisations have worked closely with their colleagues in government departments North and South.

The department or other body responsible for supplying the data, along with the data source has been noted at the relevant table. A list of contact points and relevant key publication for further information appears at the end of the Profile.

Definitions and Conventions

*Technical notes*

Each chapter of this Statistical Profile is followed by technical notes which should be read in conjunction with the appropriate tables.

*Non-calendar years*

Academic year: e.g., September 2005 to June 2006 is shown as 2005/06.
Financial year: e.g., 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 is shown as 2005-06.
Data covering more than one year: e.g., 2004, 2005 and 2006 are shown as 2004-06.

*Rounding of figures*

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

*Symbols*

The following symbols are used throughout this Statistical Profile:

- .. not available
- . not applicable
- - negligible (less than half the final digit shown)
- 0 nil
- p provisional
- r revised
- b break in series
- d data not revealed due to disclosure issues
- * sample size too small for a reliable estimate
- < less than
- Kg Kilograms
- g grams
- mls millilitres

*Typeface*

Bold text denotes summary values. Rates and percentages are presented in italics.

*Table format*

Where the specialist in each subject area has deemed the data, North and South, to be broadly comparable these figures are presented in a joint table. Where the data are less comparable they are presented in separate tables for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

**Annual average exchange rate - Units of Pound Sterling (£) per ECU/Euro (€)**

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Rate</td>
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<td>0.676</td>
<td>0.659</td>
<td>0.609</td>
<td>0.622</td>
<td>0.629</td>
<td>0.692</td>
<td>0.679</td>
<td>0.684</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Eurostat

Until 31 December 1998 these exchange rates refer to the ECU. The ECU, a basket of EU currencies, ceased to exist on 1 January 1999, when it was replaced by the Euro at a rate of 1:1.