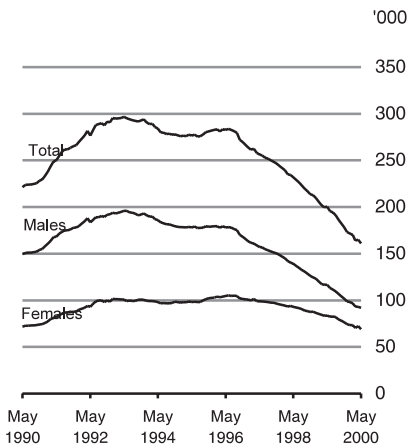




Live Register Statement May 2000

Live Register

Seasonally Adjusted



	Live Register Total	Seasonally Adjusted
May 1999	192,230	200,300
April 2000	161,796	165,200
May 2000	152,871	160,900
Change in month	-8,925	-4,300
Change in year	-39,359	-39,400

Annual decrease of over 39,000

There were 152,871 persons on the Live Register at the end of May this year, compared with 192,230 in May 1999. The annual decrease of 39,359 is the largest on record and the Live Register is now at its lowest level since June 1982.

During May this year, the Live Register fell by 8,925 persons. After adjusting for the effect of seasonal factors, this represents an underlying decrease of 4,300 during the month.

Other features include:

- ◆ There was a fall of 7,502 in the number of persons aged 25 or over signing on; and the number aged under 25 fell by 1,423 in the month. *See Tables 1b and 1c.*
- ◆ The number of UB claimants fell by 5,289 in May and the number of UA applicants fell by 3,111. *See Table 1a.*
- ◆ In the twelve months to May 2000, the number of UB claimants fell by 8,119 while the number of UA applicants fell by 29,356. There was an annual decrease of 1,884 in the number of other claimants. *See Table 1a.*
- ◆ The Live Register fell in all regions during May. The largest fall was in the Dublin region (-2,460). *See Table 2.*
- ◆ The standardised unemployment rate in May was 4.6%. This compares with 5.7% in April 1999, based on the Quarterly National Household Survey. *See Table 8 and Background Notes.*

The Live Register is not designed to measure unemployment. It includes part-time workers (those who work up to three days a week), seasonal and casual workers entitled to Unemployment Assistance or Benefit. Unemployment is measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey and the latest figure, for September-November 1999, is 88,700 persons unemployed.

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Table 1a Total persons on the Live Register

Category	May 1999	April 2000	May 2000	Monthly change	Annual change
Males					
UB Claims	28,324	26,378	24,679	- 1,699	- 3,645
UA Applications	81,272	62,882	60,689	- 2,193	- 20,583
Other Registrants	3,123	2,793	2,709	- 84	- 414
Total	112,719	92,053	88,077	- 3,976	- 24,642
Females					
UB Claims	34,646	33,762	30,172	- 3,590	- 4,474
UA Applications	32,883	25,028	24,110	- 918	- 8,773
Other Registrants	11,982	10,953	10,512	- 441	- 1,470
Total	79,511	69,743	64,794	- 4,949	- 14,717
All Persons					
UB Claims	62,970	60,140	54,851	- 5,289	- 8,119
UA Applications	114,155	87,910	84,799	- 3,111	- 29,356
Other Registrants	15,105	13,746	13,221	- 525	- 1,884
Total	192,230	161,796	152,871	- 8,925	- 39,359

Table 1b Persons under 25 years of age on the Live Register

Category	May 1999	April 2000	May 2000	Monthly change	Annual change
Males					
UB Claims	4,898	4,220	3,957	- 263	- 941
UA Applications	14,965	10,431	9,915	- 516	- 5,050
Other Registrants	38	36	32	- 4	- 6
Total	19,901	14,687	13,904	- 783	- 5,997
Females					
UB Claims	4,080	3,407	3,133	- 274	- 947
UA Applications	10,977	7,869	7,511	- 358	- 3,466
Other Registrants	206	151	143	- 8	- 63
Total	15,263	11,427	10,787	- 640	- 4,476
All Persons					
UB Claims	8,978	7,627	7,090	- 537	- 1,888
UA Applications	25,942	18,300	17,426	- 874	- 8,516
Other Registrants	244	187	175	- 12	- 69
Total	35,164	26,114	24,691	- 1,423	- 10,473

Table 1c Persons 25 years of age and over on the Live Register

Category	May 1999	April 2000	May 2000	Monthly change	Annual change
Males					
UB Claims	23,426	22,158	20,722	- 1,436	- 2,704
UA Applications	66,307	52,451	50,774	- 1,677	- 15,533
Other Registrants	3,085	2,757	2,677	- 80	- 408
Total	92,818	77,366	74,173	- 3,193	- 18,645
Females					
UB Claims	30,566	30,355	27,039	- 3,316	- 3,527
UA Applications	21,906	17,159	16,599	- 560	- 5,307
Other Registrants	11,776	10,802	10,369	- 433	- 1,407
Total	64,248	58,316	54,007	- 4,309	- 10,241
All Persons					
UB Claims	53,992	52,513	47,761	- 4,752	- 6,231
UA Applications	88,213	69,610	67,373	- 2,237	- 20,840
Other Registrants	14,861	13,559	13,046	- 513	- 1,815
Total	157,066	135,682	128,180	- 7,502	- 28,886

Table 2 Persons on the Live Register by Region

NUTS2 and NUTS3 Regions ¹	May 1999	April 2000	May 2000	Monthly change	Annual change
Males					
Border, Midland & Western	35,110	30,440	29,195	- 1,245	- 5,915
Border	17,495	15,023	14,483	- 540	- 3,012
Midland	5,895	5,006	4,810	- 196	- 1,085
West	11,720	10,411	9,902	- 509	- 1,818
Eastern & Southern	77,609	61,613	58,882	- 2,731	- 18,727
Dublin	32,801	25,205	24,153	- 1,052	- 8,648
Mid-East	7,624	5,755	5,408	- 347	- 2,216
Mid-West	7,968	6,874	6,599	- 275	- 1,369
South-East	13,384	11,245	10,645	- 600	- 2,739
South-West	15,832	12,534	12,077	- 457	- 3,755
Total	112,719	92,053	88,077	- 3,976	- 24,642
Females					
Border, Midland & Western	24,215	22,336	21,103	- 1,233	- 3,112
Border	11,428	10,787	10,147	- 640	- 1,281
Midland	4,776	4,301	4,178	- 123	- 598
West	8,011	7,248	6,778	- 470	- 1,233
Eastern & Southern	55,296	47,407	43,691	- 3,716	- 11,605
Dublin	20,814	16,690	15,282	- 1,408	- 5,532
Mid-East	6,159	5,061	4,631	- 430	- 1,528
Mid-West	6,228	5,767	5,400	- 367	- 828
South-East	10,350	9,768	9,170	- 598	- 1,180
South-West	11,745	10,121	9,208	- 913	- 2,537
Total	79,511	69,743	64,794	- 4,949	- 14,717
All Persons					
Border, Midland & Western	59,325	52,776	50,298	- 2,478	- 9,027
Border	28,923	25,810	24,630	- 1,180	- 4,293
Midland	10,671	9,307	8,988	- 319	- 1,683
West	19,731	17,659	16,680	- 979	- 3,051
Eastern & Southern	132,905	109,020	102,573	- 6,447	- 30,332
Dublin	53,615	41,895	39,435	- 2,460	- 14,180
Mid-East	13,783	10,816	10,039	- 777	- 3,744
Mid-West	14,196	12,641	11,999	- 642	- 2,197
South-East	23,734	21,013	19,815	- 1,198	- 3,919
South-West	27,577	22,655	21,285	- 1,370	- 6,292
Total	192,230	161,796	152,871	- 8,925	- 39,359

¹ The composition of the regions is described in the Live Register Area Analysis release

Table 3 Persons on the Live Register classified by Province

Provinces	May 1999	April 2000	May 2000	Monthly change	Annual change
Provinces					
Leinster	98,695	79,695	75,046	- 4,649	- 23,649
Munster	52,735	45,320	42,852	- 2,468	- 9,883
Connacht	24,144	21,602	20,404	- 1,198	- 3,740
Ulster	16,656	15,179	14,569	- 610	- 2,087
Total	192,230	161,796	152,871	- 8,925	- 39,359

Table 4a Total persons on the Live Register - Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted

Month	Unadjusted Series			Seasonally Adjusted Series ¹			
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
1999	January	127,200	86,800	214,000	123,100	86,400	209,500
	February	122,600	85,000	207,600	120,200	85,300	205,500
	March	118,200	83,000	201,200	117,200	84,400	201,600
	April	115,800	80,800	196,500	116,500	83,300	199,800
	May	112,700	79,500	192,200	116,500	83,800	200,300
	June	111,900	83,700	195,500	113,100	82,400	195,600
	July	112,600	88,000	200,600	111,400	82,800	194,100
	August	111,200	87,400	198,700	109,300	81,900	191,200
	September	106,400	79,800	186,200	106,900	79,700	186,600
	October	101,300	76,700	177,900	104,300	78,300	182,600
	November	98,700	73,100	171,800	102,000	76,600	178,600
	December	101,000	75,500	176,500	98,900	74,400	173,400
2000	January	102,400	73,800	176,200	98,300	73,400	171,700
	February	99,100	73,000	172,100	96,800	73,300	170,100
	March	94,400	69,100	163,500	93,400	70,500	163,900
	April	92,100	69,700	161,800	92,900	72,300	165,200
	May	88,100	64,800	152,900	91,900	69,100	160,900

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 1999 (See Background Notes).

Table 4b Persons under 25 years of age on the Live Register - Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted

Month	Unadjusted Series			Seasonally Adjusted Series ¹			
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
1999	January	24,000	17,900	41,900	23,000	17,600	40,600
	February	23,000	17,100	40,100	22,400	17,200	39,600
	March	21,700	16,300	38,000	21,800	17,000	38,800
	April	20,900	15,600	36,500	21,400	16,600	37,900
	May	19,900	15,300	35,200	21,600	16,900	38,400
	June	20,200	16,600	36,900	19,900	15,700	35,600
	July	20,400	17,200	37,600	19,200	15,300	34,500
	August	20,000	17,000	37,100	18,700	15,100	33,700
	September	18,600	15,400	34,000	18,200	14,700	32,900
	October	16,500	13,800	30,300	17,600	14,400	32,100
	November	15,800	12,900	28,700	17,200	14,100	31,300
	December	15,900	12,700	28,600	16,100	13,200	29,400
2000	January	17,000	13,000	29,900	16,000	12,700	28,700
	February	16,200	12,700	28,900	15,600	12,800	28,500
	March	15,200	11,800	27,000	15,300	12,400	27,800
	April	14,700	11,400	26,100	15,100	12,500	27,600
	May	13,900	10,800	24,700	15,600	12,400	27,900

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 1999 (See Background Notes).

Table 4c Persons 25 years of age or over on the Live Register - Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted

Year	Month	Unadjusted Series			Seasonally Adjusted Series ¹		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1999	January	103,200	69,000	172,100	100,100	68,800	168,900
	February	99,600	67,900	167,500	97,800	68,000	165,800
	March	96,600	66,700	163,300	95,400	67,400	162,800
	April	94,800	65,200	160,100	95,200	66,700	161,900
	May	92,800	64,200	157,100	95,000	66,900	161,900
	June	91,600	67,000	158,700	93,300	66,700	160,000
	July	92,200	70,700	162,900	92,200	67,400	159,600
	August	91,200	70,400	161,600	90,700	66,800	157,500
	September	87,900	64,300	152,200	88,700	65,000	153,700
	October	84,700	62,900	147,600	86,700	63,800	150,500
	November	82,900	60,200	143,000	84,800	62,500	147,300
	December	85,100	62,800	147,900	82,800	61,200	144,000
2000	January	85,400	60,800	146,200	82,400	60,600	143,000
	February	82,900	60,300	143,200	81,200	60,500	141,600
	March	79,200	57,300	136,500	78,100	58,000	136,100
	April	77,400	58,300	135,700	77,700	59,800	137,600
	May	74,200	54,000	128,200	76,300	56,700	133,000

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 1999 (See Background Notes).

Table 5 Persons working on systematic short-time basis excluded from the Live Register

	Month	Males	Females	Total
1999	January	1,250	2,961	4,211
	February	1,232	2,994	4,226
	March	1,146	2,878	4,024
	April	1,091	2,647	3,738
	May	1,150	2,690	3,840
	June	1,097	2,505	3,602
	July	1,105	2,368	3,473
	August	973	2,291	3,264
	September	1,030	2,353	3,383
	October	987	2,515	3,502
	November	968	2,324	3,292
	December	916	2,235	3,151
2000	January	948	2,197	3,145
	February	954	2,247	3,201
	March	1,210	2,127	3,337
	April	961	2,079	3,040
	May	771	2,023	2,794

Table 6 Smallholders/Farm Assists and Self-Employed Persons applying for Unemployment Assistance and Other Registrants excluded from the Live Register

	Month	Smallholders/ Farm Assists ¹	Self-Employed	Others	Total
1999	January	6,616	2,545	741	9,902
	February	6,672	2,541	718	9,931
	March	6,636	2,499	718	9,853
	April	7,138	2,396	737	10,271
	May	7,534	2,357	748	10,639
	June	8,282	2,270	792	11,344
	July	8,438	2,274	872	11,584
	August	8,473	2,225	866	11,564
	September	8,418	2,184	858	11,460
	October	8,442	2,128	754	11,324
	November	8,257	2,129	739	11,125
	December	8,446	2,122	789	11,357
2000	January	8,456	2,102	771	11,329
	February	8,332	2,049	754	11,135
	March	8,262	2,020	738	11,020
	April	8,211	1,944	761	10,916
	May	8,143	1,890	735	10,768

¹Farm Assist Scheme was introduced in April 1999.

Table 7 Persons Under 65 Years, other than Smallholders/Farm Assists, on the Pre-Retirement Allowance Scheme (PRETA) or on the Pre-Retirement Credits Scheme (PRECS), excluded from the Live Register

	Month	PRETA	PRECS	Total	Males	Females
1999	January	11,995	7,084	19,079	14,271	4,808
	February	11,674	7,167	18,841	14,072	4,769
	March	11,635	7,200	18,835	14,061	4,774
	April	11,734	7,226	18,960	14,163	4,797
	May	11,601	7,230	18,831	13,992	4,839
	June	11,589	7,200	18,789	13,951	4,838
	July	11,648	7,186	18,834	13,976	4,858
	August	11,617	7,173	18,790	13,931	4,859
	September	11,564	7,231	18,795	13,930	4,865
	October	11,530	7,228	18,758	13,879	4,879
	November	11,565	7,242	18,807	13,876	4,931
	December	11,581	7,331	18,912	13,934	4,978
2000	January	11,548	7,347	18,895	13,943	4,952
	February	11,608	7,461	19,069	14,033	5,036
	March	11,622	7,389	19,011	13,951	5,060
	April	11,645	7,367	19,012	13,894	5,118
	May	11,636	7,328	18,964	13,818	5,146

Table 8 Seasonally Adjusted Standardised Unemployment Rates¹

Month	1996 ³	1997 ³	1998	1999 ⁴	2000
	%	%	%	%	%
January	12.0	10.7	8.4	6.2	4.9
February	12.0	10.6	8.2	6.0	4.9
March	11.8	10.5	8.0	5.9	4.7
April ²	11.9	10.3	7.8	5.7	4.7
May	11.8	10.1	7.6	5.8	4.6
June	11.6	9.9	7.5	5.7	
July	11.5	9.7	7.3	5.6	
August	11.4	9.5	7.1	5.5	
September	11.2	9.3	6.9	5.4	
October	11.1	9.1	6.7	5.2	
November	11.0	8.9	6.5	5.1	
December	10.9	8.7	6.4	5.0	
Annual average	11.5	9.8	7.4	5.6	

¹ Table contains the revised Standardised Unemployment Rates.

² Benchmark Labour Force Survey/Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) estimates.

³ Interpolated data for May 1996 to March 1997 (see Background Notes).

⁴ The latest QNHS estimate of the unemployment rate (unadjusted for seasonality) is: Sep-Nov 1999, 5.1%.

Background Notes

Source and scope of the Live Register The Live Register is compiled from returns made directly to the Central Statistics Office by each local office of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. It comprises persons under 65 years of age in the following classes:

- All Claimants for Unemployment Benefit (UB) excluding systematic short-time workers (*see Table 5*);
- Applicants for Unemployment Assistance (UA) excluding smallholders/farm assists and self-employed persons (*see Table 6*);
- Other registrants including applicants for credited Social Welfare contributions but excluding those directly involved in an industrial dispute (*see Table 6*).

Descriptive articles The compilation basis for the Live Register statistics from May 1992 onwards is described in the September 1992 issue of the *Statistical Bulletin*. The March 1980 issue contained a description of the basis used up to April 1992 while a more comprehensive treatment of Live Register statistics appeared in the “Report of the Inter-Departmental Study Group on Unemployment Statistics” (Stationery Office Dublin, Prl. 7925, April 1979). The results of a special study of the differences between the Labour Force Survey (LFS) Estimates of Unemployment and the Live Register are contained in the December 1996 issue of the *Statistical Bulletin*.

Unemployment statistics Unemployment is measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey (formerly the annual Labour Force Survey). The Live Register is not designed to measure unemployment. It includes part-time workers (those who work up to three days a week), seasonal and casual workers entitled to Unemployment Assistance or Unemployment Benefit.

Standardised unemployment rates The Standardised Unemployment Rate (SUR) series in Table 8 is based on the estimated number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the total economically active population (i.e. the labour force), using internationally comparable definitions of employment and unemployment, as recommended by the International Labour Office. Benchmark estimates of the SUR for April of each year are calculated from the Labour Force Survey/Quarterly National Household Survey. The monthly trend in the seasonally adjusted Live Register has been traditionally used to estimate the monthly SUR between successive surveys.

This approach was temporarily suspended following the rapid decline in the Live Register after September 1996. A linear interpolation estimation approach was used between April 1996 and April 1997, as the Live Register series could not be used as an indicator of monthly trends in unemployment during that period. The traditional estimation approach has been used from April 1997 onwards.

QNHS The Quarterly National Household Survey, which began in September 1997, has now replaced the Labour Force Survey and provides quarterly estimates of the unemployment rate. The estimates (unadjusted for seasonality) are:

1997				Q4: 10.4%
1998	Q1: 8.5%	Q2: 7.8%	Q3: 7.6%	Q4: 6.4%
1999	Q1: 5.8%	Q2: 5.7%	Q3: 5.7%	Q4: 5.1%

Seasonal adjustment The seasonal adjustment of the Live Register is completed using the X-11 Variant of the US Bureau of Census Method 2 (Additive Option). The seasonally adjusted series are updated twice yearly, in January and July; pending the next updating, seasonal adjustment for intervening months is carried out using projected seasonal factors. In Tables 4a, b and c the seasonally adjusted totals are the sum of the relevant seasonally adjusted series for males and females, under and over 25 years.

Because QNHS estimates are not yet adjusted for seasonality, only the March–May unemployment rates, which are directly comparable with April LFS data, have been incorporated in the calculation of the monthly SUR.