



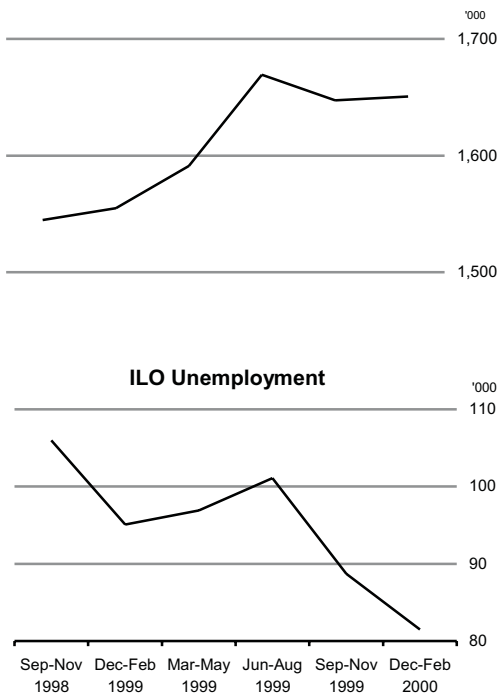
**Central Statistics Office**  
An Phrómh-Oifig Staidrimh

**Based on the 1996 Census of Population figures  
For figures based on the 2002 Census of Population see the  
revised QNHS series.**

7 June 2000

## Quarterly National Household Survey First Quarter 2000

### ILO Employment



### ILO Labour Force

	In Employment	Unemployed	Labour Force
<b>Dec-Feb 1999</b>	1,555.0	95.1	1,650.1
<b>Mar-May 1999</b>	1,591.1	96.9	1,688.1
<b>Jun-Aug 1999</b>	1,669.2	101.1	1,770.3
<b>Sep-Nov 1999</b>	1,647.4	88.7	1,736.1
<b>Dec-Feb 2000</b>	1,650.6	81.5	1,732.1
<i>Change in quarter</i>	+3.2	-7.2	-4.0
<i>Change in year</i>	+95.6	-13.6	+82.0

### Unemployment rate falls below 5%

The unemployment rate fell to 4.7% in the first quarter of this year, compared with 5.1% in the previous quarter and 5.8% in the first quarter of 1999. This reflects the fall of 13,600 in the year in the number of persons unemployed. The fall in long-term unemployment accounted for all of this annual decrease. See *Tables 1 and 7*.

On a regional basis, the unemployment rate in quarter one was lowest in Dublin at 3.9% and in the Mid-East and South West regions, both at 4.0%. The highest unemployment rates were in the Border region at 7.3% and the Midlands at 6.6%. See *Table 4b*.

The numbers employed were up by 95,600 in the year, bringing total employment to 1,650,600 in quarter one. The annual increase was evenly divided between men and women. See *Table 1*.

This release contains new quarterly figures on occupations. In the past two years, all occupational categories have seen substantial growth. For men, the fastest-growing occupational category was *craft and related* occupations, which increased by over 30,000 in two years. The greatest increases in women's employment were in *clerical and secretarial* occupations (+18,600) and in *service sector* jobs (+18,300). See *Table 2b*.

There were 1,732,100 persons in the labour force (employed plus unemployed) in the first quarter. This is 82,000 higher than in the corresponding quarter of 1999 and means that 58.6% of all persons aged 15 or over were in the labour force. The labour force participation rate was 56.7% one year earlier. See *Table 1*.

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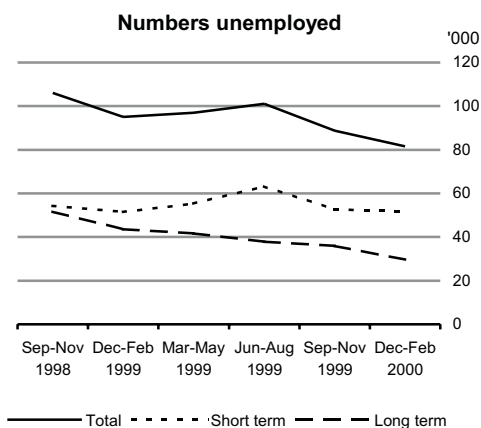
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## Unemployment falls to 81,500

There were 81,500 persons unemployed in the first quarter of this year, of whom 49,500 were male and 32,000 female. Unemployment was down 7,200 on the previous quarter, with the quarterly decrease split evenly between males (-3,500) and females (-3,700). *See Table 1.*

There were 66,800 unemployed people looking for full-time work and 14,800 looking for part-time work in quarter one. An estimated 47,300 males and 19,500 females were looking for full-time work; while 2,200 males and 12,600 females were looking for part-time work.

Of the 81,500 persons unemployed, an estimated 29,700 were long-term unemployed and 51,700 were unemployed for less than one year. Long-term unemployment fell by 13,900 in the year to quarter one of 2000, accounting for all of the annual decrease in unemployment. The number unemployed for less than one year in quarter one of 2000 was at about the same level as in the corresponding quarter of 1999. *See Tables 7 and 8.*

The long-term unemployed represented 1.7% of the labour force in quarter one of 2000, down from 2.6% in the same quarter of 1999. *See Table 9.*

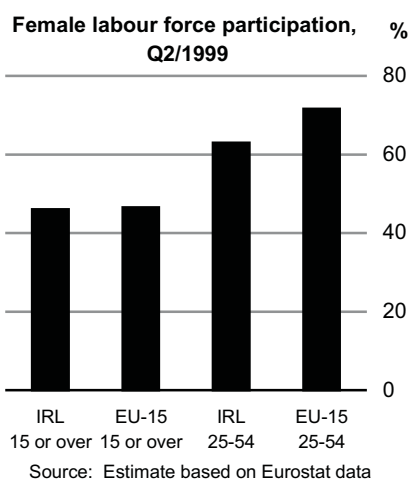
## Sources of labour supply

The survey-based labour supply indicators continue to show evidence of labour shortages. These indicators measure, in addition to the unemployed, persons outside the labour force who show some interest in obtaining work. The broadest supply indicator, S3, fell from 9.6% in quarter four of 1999 to 9.0% in quarter one of 2000. *See Table 11.*

In the context of labour shortages, the survey shows that the labour force grew by 82,000 in the year to quarter one. The increasing population of working age contributed about 38,300 to this and the balance of 43,800 reflected higher participation in the labour force. The percentage in the labour force has been increasing in almost all age groups, but most notably for persons under 25 and for married females aged 25 to 54.

Overall, some 70.7% of males aged 15 or over were in the labour force in quarter one of 2000; this figure was 1.3% higher than in the corresponding quarter of 2000. Female labour force participation, at 46.8%, was up by 2.3%. *See Tables 1 and 5.*

Ireland's total female labour force participation is much closer to the EU-15 average than before. Figures for quarter two of 1999 show female labour force participation at 46% in Ireland and an estimated 46.5% in the EU-15. However, for women aged 25 to 54, 63% were in the labour force in Ireland compared with an estimated 71.6% for the EU-15. *See Graph.*

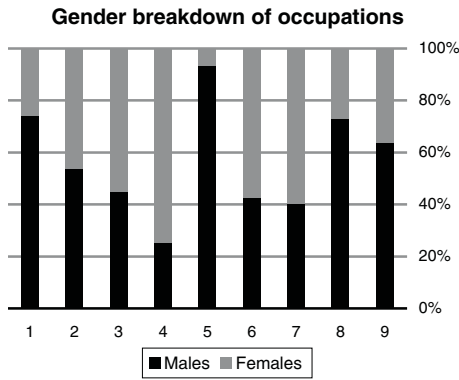


## Growth in construction and business services

The fastest growing sectors in the past year were *construction* (+20,400), *financial and other business services* (+19,800) and the *wholesale and retail* sectors (+14,100). For females the biggest growth area was *education and health*, where an annual increase of 10,300 brought the number of females employed to 168,000. *See Table 2a.* The private sector accounted for all of the annual increase and has grown by 377,000 since 1995. *See Table 14.*

## New table on occupations

Table 2b contains a new series of quarterly occupational figures, based on the UK Standard Occupational Classification. The table shows that all occupational categories have grown strongly in the past two years. The greatest growth was for



1. Managers and administrators
2. Professional
3. Associate professional and technical
4. Clerical and secretarial
5. Craft and related
6. Personal and protective service
7. Sales
8. Plant and machine operatives
9. Other

craft and related occupations, up 31,100 in two years, followed by *personal and protective service* workers (+24,800) and *clerical and secretarial* workers (+23,400). In the *managers and administrators* category, men outnumber women by almost three to one; while there are three times as many female as there are male clerks and secretaries. See Table 2b and Background Notes.

### Annual increase of 72,000 in full-time jobs

Full-time employment increased by 72,000 in the year to reach 1,377,500 and part-time employment grew by 23,600 to 273,100. This comprised an increase of 17,900 female and 5,800 male part-time workers. The vast majority of the 273,100 persons in part-time employment indicate that they are satisfied with their hours and are classified as not underemployed. See Table 1.

The breakdown of hours of work gives similar results in relation to part-time and full-time employment. Over 30% of women in employment work for less than 30 hours per week compared to just 6.4% of men. See Table 3.

There was an annual increase of 67,700 in the number of persons working 35 to 39 hours per week. The numbers working up to 29 hours per week grew by 24,100 while the numbers working variable hours grew by 9,600 in the year. See Table 3.

The average working week was 38.1 hours in quarter one of 2000, compared with 38.3 hours one year before, and 38.7 hours two years earlier. For men the average working week was 42.1 hours compared with 32.7 hours for women. See Table 3.

### Regional comparisons

The annual employment growth of 95,600 was made up of an increase of 69,100, or +5.9%, in the Eastern and Southern region and 26,600, or +7%, in the Border, Midlands and Western region. See Table 4a.

Some 11,700 or 86% of the annual decrease of 13,600 in the numbers of unemployed was in the Eastern and Southern NUTS 2 region. Labour force participation was also higher in this region (59.6%) than in the Border, Midlands and West (55.6%). See Table 4a.

At NUTS 3 level, the unemployment rate in quarter one was lowest in Dublin at 3.9% and in the Mid-East and South West regions, both at 4.0%. The highest unemployment rates were in the Border region at 7.3% and the Midlands at 6.6%. Labour force participation was highest in the Dublin and Mid-East regions and lowest in the Border region. See Table 4b.

### Principal Economic Status

The number of persons describing their usual situation as at work grew by 89,300 to 1,579,300 in the year to quarter one of 2000. This was fairly evenly divided between males (+44,900) and females (+44,400). In the same period the number of persons describing their usual situation as unemployed fell by 16,500 to 117,000. The number of males giving their situation as unemployed fell by 14,800. See Table 12.

The number of females describing their usual situation as students grew by 3,000 in the year while the number of male students fell by over 2,000. An estimated 53,600 of the 364,400 students in quarter one had a job, the majority of these part-time. This is an increase of 12,000 in student employment since the beginning of 1999. See Tables 12 and 13.

The number of persons describing themselves as engaged on home duties fell by 17,800 in the year. See Table 12.

**Table 1 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex and ILO economic status**

1 000

ILO economic status	Sep- Nov 98	Dec- Feb 99	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00
<b>Males</b>						
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>994.4</b>	<b>991.6</b>	<b>1,006.7</b>	<b>1,048.3</b>	<b>1,030.5</b>	<b>1,029.3</b>
In employment :	928.4	931.6	947.3	989.5	977.5	979.8
full-time	863.1	867.7	877.5	914.8	908.5	910.2
part-time :	65.3	63.9	69.8	74.7	69.0	69.7
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	61.0	60.1	66.9	71.8	66.3	67.9
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	4.3	3.7	2.9	2.9	2.7	1.8
Unemployed :	66.0	60.0	59.4	58.8	53.0	49.5
seeking full-time work	64.2	58.3	56.8	55.6	50.2	47.3
seeking part-time work	1.8	1.7	2.5	3.2	2.8	2.2
<b>Not in labour force</b>	<b>429.3</b>	<b>437.7</b>	<b>426.8</b>	<b>391.3</b>	<b>418.1</b>	<b>425.6</b>
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	10.9	12.6	10.2	10.6	9.4	9.6
Others	418.4	425.2	416.6	380.8	408.7	416.0
<b>Total males aged 15 or over</b>	<b>1,423.8</b>	<b>1,429.3</b>	<b>1,433.4</b>	<b>1,439.6</b>	<b>1,448.6</b>	<b>1,455.0</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>70.7</b>
<b>Females</b>						
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>656.3</b>	<b>658.5</b>	<b>681.4</b>	<b>722.0</b>	<b>705.6</b>	<b>702.8</b>
In employment :	616.3	623.3	643.9	679.7	669.9	670.8
full-time	432.4	437.7	447.2	477.3	469.0	467.3
part-time :	183.8	185.6	196.7	202.5	200.8	203.5
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	180.6	182.8	193.7	200.4	198.8	201.7
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	3.2	2.8	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.8
Unemployed :	40.0	35.2	37.5	42.2	35.7	32.0
seeking full-time work	25.2	22.5	23.3	27.8	22.8	19.5
seeking part-time work	14.8	12.7	14.3	14.5	13.0	12.6
<b>Not in labour force</b>	<b>817.7</b>	<b>820.1</b>	<b>800.6</b>	<b>766.9</b>	<b>793.6</b>	<b>800.0</b>
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	6.1	6.8	6.5	7.2	6.6	6.2
Others	811.6	813.4	794.1	759.7	786.9	793.8
<b>Total females aged 15 or over</b>	<b>1,474.0</b>	<b>1,478.7</b>	<b>1,482.0</b>	<b>1,488.8</b>	<b>1,499.2</b>	<b>1,502.8</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>46.8</b>
<b>All persons</b>						
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>1,650.7</b>	<b>1,650.1</b>	<b>1,688.1</b>	<b>1,770.3</b>	<b>1,736.1</b>	<b>1,732.1</b>
In employment :	1,544.7	1,555.0	1,591.1	1,669.2	1,647.4	1,650.6
full-time	1,295.5	1,305.5	1,324.6	1,392.1	1,377.5	1,377.5
part-time :	249.2	249.5	266.5	277.2	269.9	273.1
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed *</i>	241.7	242.9	260.6	272.2	265.2	269.5
<i>part-time, underemployed *</i>	7.5	6.6	5.9	4.9	4.7	3.6
Unemployed :	106.0	95.1	96.9	101.1	88.7	81.5
seeking full-time work	89.4	80.7	80.1	83.4	73.0	66.8
seeking part-time work	16.6	14.4	16.8	17.7	15.7	14.8
<b>Not in labour force</b>	<b>1,247.1</b>	<b>1,257.9</b>	<b>1,227.4</b>	<b>1,158.2</b>	<b>1,211.6</b>	<b>1,225.7</b>
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	17.1	19.3	16.7	17.7	16.0	15.8
Others	1,230.0	1,238.5	1,210.7	1,140.5	1,195.7	1,209.9
<b>Total persons aged 15 or over</b>	<b>2,897.7</b>	<b>2,908.0</b>	<b>2,915.5</b>	<b>2,928.4</b>	<b>2,947.8</b>	<b>2,957.8</b>
<b>Unemployment rate %</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>Participation rate %</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>58.6</b>

\* See Background Notes

**Table 2a Persons in employment (ILO) classified by sex and NACE economic sector**

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Economic sector (NACE Rev. 1)	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98	Dec- Feb 99	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00
<b>Males</b>							
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	120.2	121.2	121.8	120.4	126.7	124.4	118.8
C-E Other production industries	218.5	216.6	214.2	215.7	222.3	214.6	213.2
F Construction	127.2	130.7	133.5	135.9	143.7	148.0	151.9
G Wholesale and retail trade	121.0	115.3	118.1	118.2	125.7	122.9	124.8
H Hotels and restaurants	43.3	40.1	39.2	41.8	45.1	41.9	43.5
I Transport, storage and communication	68.8	70.6	72.6	72.0	74.0	74.7	75.7
J-K Financial and other business services	91.2	90.8	92.9	99.2	104.3	103.1	104.1
L Public administration and defence	44.6	43.6	44.6	45.1	47.4	46.7	45.9
M-N Education and health	59.2	58.0	55.7	57.5	57.7	58.2	58.7
O Other services	40.9	41.5	39.0	41.5	42.6	43.1	43.1
<b>Total males</b>	<b>934.9</b>	<b>928.4</b>	<b>931.6</b>	<b>947.3</b>	<b>989.5</b>	<b>977.5</b>	<b>979.8</b>
<b>Females</b>							
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	15.3	15.1	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.6	15.0
C-E Other production industries	95.6	89.0	91.2	93.2	99.0	99.4	100.3
F Construction	5.7	6.0	5.8	6.1	7.2	6.8	7.8
G Wholesale and retail trade	103.4	99.9	101.2	105.1	110.7	106.3	108.6
H Hotels and restaurants	65.1	60.3	58.9	60.8	71.6	63.2	61.9
I Transport, storage and communication	22.7	23.3	24.1	23.9	25.9	25.2	25.5
J-K Financial and other business services	90.7	93.6	94.2	96.6	103.7	102.2	102.7
L Public administration and defence	27.8	26.8	26.4	29.3	30.4	31.6	30.9
M-N Education and health	149.7	153.3	157.7	163.0	161.3	167.6	168.0
O Other services	48.7	48.9	48.4	50.3	54.3	52.0	50.2
<b>Total females</b>	<b>624.8</b>	<b>616.3</b>	<b>623.3</b>	<b>643.9</b>	<b>679.7</b>	<b>669.9</b>	<b>670.8</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	135.5	136.3	137.3	135.9	142.3	140.0	133.8
C-E Other production industries	314.1	305.6	305.4	308.9	321.3	314.0	313.5
F Construction	132.9	136.7	139.3	142.1	150.9	154.8	159.7
G Wholesale and retail trade	224.4	215.3	219.4	223.3	236.4	229.3	233.5
H Hotels and restaurants	108.4	100.4	98.0	102.6	116.7	105.1	105.4
I Transport, storage and communication	91.5	93.9	96.8	96.0	99.9	99.9	101.2
J-K Financial and other business services	181.9	184.4	187.0	195.8	208.0	205.3	206.8
L Public administration and defence	72.4	70.4	70.9	74.4	77.8	78.3	76.8
M-N Education and health	209.0	211.3	213.4	220.4	219.0	225.8	226.7
O Other services	89.7	90.4	87.4	91.8	97.0	95.1	93.2
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>1,559.7</b>	<b>1,544.7</b>	<b>1,555.0</b>	<b>1,591.1</b>	<b>1,669.2</b>	<b>1,647.4</b>	<b>1,650.6</b>

**Table 2b Persons in employment (ILO) classified by sex and occupation**

<sup>1</sup> 000

Broad Occupational Group	Sep- Nov 97	Dec- Feb 98	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98	Dec- Feb 99	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00
<b>Males</b>										
1. Managers and administrators	208.3	213.6	214.2	214.6	217.5	220.7	220.2	224.4	226.2	222.0
2. Professional	83.0	83.5	80.8	81.9	82.8	82.7	83.3	85.9	87.5	87.8
3. Associate professional and technical	54.1	54.1	53.6	57.1	54.3	53.7	58.3	59.5	59.9	60.6
4. Clerical and secretarial	45.3	46.3	47.5	51.7	49.0	48.8	51.3	55.1	51.2	51.1
5. Craft and related	181.1	181.0	185.1	192.3	192.5	197.3	202.5	206.0	209.3	211.8
6. Personal and protective service	63.2	62.3	63.2	65.9	65.0	63.9	67.6	69.4	66.8	68.8
7. Sales	47.2	48.6	48.6	48.9	47.7	49.1	49.7	54.8	52.1	53.5
8. Plant and machine operatives	118.0	119.1	118.9	124.7	126.1	123.9	122.3	131.0	127.2	128.4
9. Other	81.1	86.0	88.0	97.8	93.5	91.6	92.2	103.4	97.3	95.8
<b>Total males</b>	<b>881.4</b>	<b>894.5</b>	<b>899.9</b>	<b>934.9</b>	<b>928.4</b>	<b>931.6</b>	<b>947.3</b>	<b>989.5</b>	<b>977.5</b>	<b>979.8</b>
<b>Females</b>										
1. Managers and administrators	63.9	65.9	69.1	69.4	70.2	70.0	72.4	76.9	75.2	77.5
2. Professional	65.3	65.3	66.4	63.6	68.9	72.3	75.5	71.7	75.3	75.4
3. Associate professional and technical	65.6	65.5	66.1	69.5	69.2	71.6	72.5	74.6	74.4	74.7
4. Clerical and secretarial	133.1	133.9	136.5	145.1	143.0	143.6	149.1	156.6	153.4	152.5
5. Craft and related	16.9	15.5	15.5	16.6	16.8	16.0	16.5	16.6	16.6	15.8
6. Personal and protective service	77.8	74.3	77.2	83.1	82.5	82.3	85.4	95.6	93.0	92.6
7. Sales	65.9	68.2	67.2	76.4	73.3	74.7	77.5	82.9	79.5	79.6
8. Plant and machine operatives	45.9	43.5	41.2	44.1	40.4	40.9	40.2	46.0	47.1	48.0
9. Other	56.4	56.6	55.3	57.1	51.9	51.9	54.7	58.7	55.4	54.6
<b>Total females</b>	<b>590.9</b>	<b>588.6</b>	<b>594.6</b>	<b>624.8</b>	<b>616.3</b>	<b>623.3</b>	<b>643.9</b>	<b>679.7</b>	<b>669.9</b>	<b>670.8</b>
<b>All persons</b>										
1. Managers and administrators	272.3	279.5	283.3	284.1	287.7	290.7	292.6	301.3	301.5	299.5
2. Professional	148.3	148.8	147.2	145.5	151.7	155.0	158.8	157.7	162.7	163.2
3. Associate professional and technical	119.7	119.6	119.7	126.5	123.6	125.3	130.9	134.1	134.3	135.3
4. Clerical and secretarial	178.5	180.2	184.0	196.8	192.0	192.4	200.3	211.7	204.7	203.6
5. Craft and related	197.9	196.4	200.6	208.9	209.2	213.2	218.9	222.6	225.9	227.5
6. Personal and protective service	141.0	136.6	140.4	148.9	147.6	146.3	153.0	165.0	159.8	161.4
7. Sales	113.1	116.7	115.9	125.3	120.9	123.8	127.3	137.7	131.6	133.1
8. Plant and machine operatives	163.9	162.7	160.0	168.7	166.5	164.8	162.5	177.0	174.3	176.4
9. Other	137.5	142.6	143.4	154.9	145.4	143.5	146.9	162.0	152.7	150.4
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>1,472.2</b>	<b>1,483.1</b>	<b>1,494.5</b>	<b>1,559.7</b>	<b>1,544.7</b>	<b>1,555.0</b>	<b>1,591.1</b>	<b>1,669.2</b>	<b>1,647.4</b>	<b>1,650.6</b>

**Table 3 Persons in employment (ILO) classified by sex and usual hours of work**

1 000

Usual hours per week	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98	Dec- Feb 99	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00
<b>Males</b>								
1-9 hours	8.5	3.9	5.6	7.7	7.9	4.6	7.8	8.2
10-19	16.3	15.3	15.9	17.8	19.7	15.3	16.8	18.4
20-29	36.7	39.1	35.7	33.0	34.0	38.9	36.7	36.1
30-34	16.4	19.0	17.0	17.8	17.8	18.9	17.2	17.0
35-39	205.2	226.3	229.4	238.9	252.3	274.4	277.8	278.6
40-44	226.9	244.5	241.9	240.4	237.5	248.3	240.5	243.4
45 & over	236.7	237.1	230.2	219.2	215.4	222.1	216.3	216.2
Variable hours <sup>1</sup>	153.1	149.6	152.7	156.7	162.6	167.1	164.5	161.8
<b>Total males</b>	<b>899.9</b>	<b>934.9</b>	<b>928.4</b>	<b>931.6</b>	<b>947.3</b>	<b>989.5</b>	<b>977.5</b>	<b>979.8</b>
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>43.1</i>	<i>43.1</i>	<i>42.9</i>	<i>42.5</i>	<i>42.3</i>	<i>42.5</i>	<i>42.2</i>	<i>42.1</i>
<b>Females</b>								
1-9 hours	17.1	12.9	15.6	16.9	19.7	13.2	19.4	19.2
10-19	55.2	54.4	56.3	59.1	61.4	56.4	60.8	63.2
20-29	99.6	104.5	107.9	106.6	111.0	119.7	117.7	120.1
30-34	31.2	33.3	32.7	32.9	32.9	33.6	33.2	31.9
35-39	189.4	210.3	207.0	213.1	221.0	240.4	241.0	241.1
40-44	115.4	125.3	118.8	118.0	117.1	125.9	114.4	110.2
45 & over	43.1	41.7	40.2	38.0	38.7	40.3	38.7	41.7
Variable hours <sup>1</sup>	43.7	42.3	37.8	38.5	42.2	50.3	44.8	43.4
<b>Total females</b>	<b>594.6</b>	<b>624.8</b>	<b>616.3</b>	<b>623.3</b>	<b>643.9</b>	<b>679.7</b>	<b>669.9</b>	<b>670.8</b>
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>33.5</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>32.9</i>	<i>32.7</i>	<i>33.3</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>32.7</i>
<b>All persons</b>								
1-9 hours	25.6	16.9	21.3	24.6	27.7	17.8	27.1	27.4
10-19	71.5	69.8	72.2	76.9	81.0	71.7	77.6	81.6
20-29	136.3	143.6	143.5	139.6	145.1	158.5	154.4	156.2
30-34	47.6	52.2	49.8	50.7	50.7	52.6	50.5	48.9
35-39	394.6	436.6	436.4	452.0	473.3	514.8	518.8	519.7
40-44	342.2	369.8	360.6	358.4	354.6	374.2	354.8	353.6
45 & over	279.9	278.8	270.4	257.2	254.0	262.3	255.0	257.9
Variable hours <sup>1</sup>	196.8	191.9	190.5	195.6	204.7	217.4	209.2	205.2
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>1,494.5</b>	<b>1,559.7</b>	<b>1,544.7</b>	<b>1,555.0</b>	<b>1,591.1</b>	<b>1,669.2</b>	<b>1,647.4</b>	<b>1,650.6</b>
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>38.8</i>	<i>39.0</i>	<i>38.7</i>	<i>38.3</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>38.5</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>38.1</i>

<sup>1</sup> Includes 'not stated'

**Table 4a Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS2 regions<sup>1</sup> and ILO economic status**

Region	In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation Rate
	'000	'000	'000	%	%
<b>Border, Midland and Western</b>					
LFS April 1997	351.3	41.3	392.6	10.5	53.2
Mar-May 1998	363.0	33.4	396.3	8.4	52.7
Jun-Aug 1998	378.6	33.6	412.3	8.2	54.7
Sep-Nov 1998	374.3	30.2	404.5	7.5	53.5
Dec-Feb 1999	377.4	28.0	405.5	6.9	53.3
Mar-May 1999	390.1	28.9	418.9	6.9	54.9
Jun-Aug 1999	407.0	29.6	436.6	6.8	56.9
Sep-Nov 1999	401.5	27.7	429.1	6.4	55.6
Dec-Feb 2000	404.0	26.2	430.2	6.1	55.6
<b>Eastern and Southern</b>					
LFS April 1997	1,028.6	117.7	1,146.3	10.3	55.2
Mar-May 1998	1,131.5	93.2	1,224.7	7.6	57.8
Jun-Aug 1998	1,181.0	95.4	1,276.2	7.5	59.9
Sep-Nov 1998	1,170.4	75.8	1,246.2	6.1	58.2
Dec-Feb 1999	1,177.5	67.1	1,244.6	5.4	58.0
Mar-May 1999	1,201.1	68.0	1,269.1	5.4	59.0
Jun-Aug 1999	1,262.2	71.4	1,333.6	5.4	61.7
Sep-Nov 1999	1,245.9	61.1	1,307.0	4.7	60.1
Dec-Feb 2000	1,246.6	55.4	1,301.9	4.3	59.6
<b>State</b>					
LFS April 1997	1,379.9	159.0	1,539.0	10.3	54.7
Mar-May 1998	1,494.5	126.6	1,621.1	7.8	56.5
Jun-Aug 1998	1,559.7	128.9	1,688.6	7.6	58.5
Sep-Nov 1998	1,544.7	106.0	1,650.7	6.4	57.0
Dec-Feb 1999	1,555.0	95.1	1,650.1	5.8	56.7
Mar-May 1999	1,591.1	96.9	1,688.1	5.7	57.9
Jun-Aug 1999	1,669.2	101.1	1,770.3	5.7	60.5
Sep-Nov 1999	1,647.4	88.7	1,736.1	5.1	58.9
Dec-Feb 2000	1,650.6	81.5	1,732.1	4.7	58.6

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes



**Table 4b Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS3 regions<sup>1</sup> and ILO economic status**

Region		In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
		'000	'000	'000	%	%
<b>Border</b>						
	Sep-Nov 1998	150.4	14.7	165.1	8.9	52.6
	Dec-Feb 1999	151.9	13.9	165.7	8.4	52.6
	Mar-May 1999	156.4	14.9	171.3	8.7	54.2
	Jun-Aug 1999	161.7	15.3	177.0	8.6	55.6
	Sep-Nov 1999	158.0	14.7	172.7	8.5	54.0
	Dec-Feb 2000	158.6	12.5	171.1	7.3	53.5
<b>Midlands</b>						
	Sep-Nov 1998	76.9	6.5	83.4	7.8	52.9
	Dec-Feb 1999	77.5	5.9	83.3	7.0	51.8
	Mar-May 1999	80.8	5.6	86.4	6.5	54.0
	Jun-Aug 1999	84.3	6.3	90.6	7.0	56.4
	Sep-Nov 1999	83.9	5.3	89.2	5.9	55.0
	Dec-Feb 2000	82.9	5.8	88.7	6.6	55.1
<b>West</b>						
	Sep-Nov 1998	147.0	9.0	156.0	5.7	54.9
	Dec-Feb 1999	148.1	8.3	156.4	5.3	55.0
	Mar-May 1999	152.9	8.3	161.3	5.2	56.2
	Jun-Aug 1999	161.0	8.0	169.0	4.7	58.6
	Sep-Nov 1999	159.6	7.7	167.3	4.6	57.7
	Dec-Feb 2000	162.6	7.9	170.4	4.6	58.3
<b>Dublin</b>						
	Sep-Nov 1998	501.7	30.4	532.1	5.7	61.1
	Dec-Feb 1999	504.3	26.4	530.7	5.0	61.0
	Mar-May 1999	511.2	25.4	536.6	4.7	61.7
	Jun-Aug 1999	528.6	24.9	553.5	4.5	63.7
	Sep-Nov 1999	525.3	21.8	547.1	4.0	62.3
	Dec-Feb 2000	528.1	21.6	549.7	3.9	62.4
<b>Mid-East</b>						
	Sep-Nov 1998	161.5	8.2	169.8	4.8	60.2
	Dec-Feb 1999	163.0	7.5	170.5	4.4	60.0
	Mar-May 1999	170.0	7.5	177.5	4.2	61.7
	Jun-Aug 1999	177.3	9.2	186.4	4.9	64.4
	Sep-Nov 1999	175.2	7.8	182.9	4.3	62.5
	Dec-Feb 2000	176.3	7.4	183.6	4.0	62.3
<b>Mid-West</b>						
	Sep-Nov 1998	131.6	7.7	139.3	5.5	55.4
	Dec-Feb 1999	133.1	7.1	140.2	5.1	55.8
	Mar-May 1999	136.5	7.2	143.7	5.0	56.9
	Jun-Aug 1999	147.4	8.8	156.2	5.6	61.5
	Sep-Nov 1999	143.4	7.7	151.1	5.1	59.2
	Dec-Feb 2000	143.8	6.4	150.2	4.3	58.4
<b>South-East</b>						
	Sep-Nov 1998	155.0	14.7	169.7	8.7	55.3
	Dec-Feb 1999	156.0	13.3	169.3	7.8	54.9
	Mar-May 1999	157.9	14.5	172.4	8.4	55.7
	Jun-Aug 1999	170.1	14.7	184.8	7.9	59.2
	Sep-Nov 1999	166.8	12.0	178.8	6.7	57.1
	Dec-Feb 2000	165.6	10.2	175.9	5.8	56.0
<b>South-West</b>						
	Sep-Nov 1998	220.5	14.7	235.3	6.3	54.7
	Dec-Feb 1999	221.1	12.8	233.9	5.5	54.0
	Mar-May 1999	225.5	13.5	238.9	5.6	55.1
	Jun-Aug 1999	238.8	13.9	252.7	5.5	57.9
	Sep-Nov 1999	235.2	11.8	247.0	4.8	56.5
	Dec-Feb 2000	232.8	9.8	242.6	4.0	55.3
<b>State</b>						
	Sep-Nov 1998	1,544.7	106.0	1,650.7	6.4	57.0
	Dec-Feb 1999	1,555.0	95.1	1,650.1	5.8	56.7
	Mar-May 1999	1,591.1	96.9	1,688.1	5.7	57.9
	Jun-Aug 1999	1,669.2	101.1	1,770.3	5.7	60.5
	Sep-Nov 1999	1,647.4	88.7	1,736.1	5.1	58.9
	Dec-Feb 2000	1,650.6	81.5	1,732.1	4.7	58.6

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes

**Table 5 Labour force Participation Rates (ILO) classified by sex, age group and marital status, December-February, 2000**

Marital Status	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
<b>Males</b>									
Single	32.8	78.8	92.3	85.6	74.7	59.3	45.9	20.5	66.3
Married	10.4	92.4	97.0	95.6	90.8	78.6	56.7	14.7	77.2
Separated or divorced	*	*	93.9	88.1	83.0	63.2	37.7	16.9	73.9
Widowed	*	*	*	86.1	78.6	69.1	42.2	8.4	24.6
<b>Total males</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>70.7</b>
<b>Females</b>									
Single	25.1	71.2	85.7	80.4	71.0	45.6	33.7	3.1	57.4
Married	6.4	57.1	66.9	58.6	48.8	32.1	17.1	2.7	45.7
Separated or divorced	*	*	63.5	66.6	59.8	52.5	24.8	2.6	58.0
Widowed	*	*	67.0	60.6	47.0	33.6	17.0	2.0	8.9
<b>Total females</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>76.3</b>	<b>62.3</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>46.8</b>
<b>All persons</b>									
Single	29.1	75.0	89.4	83.4	73.3	54.4	41.2	12.4	62.2
Married	7.9	66.0	80.1	76.8	69.8	55.8	37.8	9.6	61.5
Separated or divorced	*	*	71.7	74.0	68.7	57.2	30.9	10.6	64.0
Widowed	*	*	63.1	67.5	57.2	41.7	22.8	3.2	12.1
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>58.6</b>

\* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

**Table 6 Unemployment rates (ILO) classified by sex and age group**

	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
<b>Males</b>									
Sep-Nov 1998	11.0	9.2	6.3	6.0	6.5	5.6	4.7	0.5	6.6
Dec-Feb 1999	10.1	8.4	5.5	6.1	5.9	4.5	3.0	0.4	6.0
Mar-May 1999	10.6	7.6	5.4	5.7	6.0	4.8	3.2	0.4	5.9
Jun-Aug 1999	10.7	7.9	4.8	5.1	5.4	4.3	2.8	0.4	5.6
Sep-Nov 1999	9.6	7.6	4.4	4.8	5.0	3.9	3.2	0.9	5.1
Dec-Feb 2000	9.5	5.6	4.8	4.5	4.8	3.4	2.3	1.2	4.8
<b>Females</b>									
Sep-Nov 1998	13.9	8.1	5.0	5.2	5.5	4.0	5.3	0.5	6.1
Dec-Feb 1999	10.6	7.6	4.3	4.7	4.9	4.6	2.8	0.0	5.3
Mar-May 1999	11.9	7.0	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.0	1.5	5.5
Jun-Aug 1999	12.7	8.5	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.1	1.7	5.9
Sep-Nov 1999	9.2	6.6	4.5	4.3	4.7	3.8	3.1	1.1	5.1
Dec-Feb 2000	9.8	5.9	3.8	4.4	3.8	3.0	1.7	2.3	4.6
<b>All persons</b>									
Sep-Nov 1998	12.2	8.7	5.7	5.7	6.2	5.1	4.8	0.5	6.4
Dec-Feb 1999	10.3	8.0	5.0	5.6	5.5	4.5	3.0	0.3	5.8
Mar-May 1999	11.1	7.4	5.1	5.4	5.5	4.8	3.4	0.6	5.7
Jun-Aug 1999	11.6	8.2	4.7	4.8	5.0	4.3	3.2	0.7	5.7
Sep-Nov 1999	9.4	7.1	4.4	4.6	4.9	3.9	3.1	0.9	5.1
Dec-Feb 2000	9.6	5.8	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.3	2.1	1.4	4.7

**Table 7 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex and duration of unemployment (ILO)**

<sup>1</sup> 000

Duration	LFS	Quarterly National Household Survey						
	April 1997	Jun-Aug 98	Sep-Nov 98	Dec-Feb 99	Mar-May 99	Jun-Aug 99	Sep-Nov 99	Dec-Feb 00
<b>Males</b>								
Less than 1 year	35.1	34.5	27.8	27.1	28.2	31.0	27.0	27.2
1 year and over	58.8	44.5	37.9	32.4	30.8	27.7	26.0	22.2
Not stated	3.1	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
<b>Total males</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>49.5</b>
<b>Females</b>								
Less than 1 year	31.9	32.3	26.0	23.9	26.8	32.0	25.8	24.5
1 year and over	27.5	17.2	13.8	11.2	10.8	10.2	10.0	7.5
Not stated	2.6	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total females</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>32.0</b>
<b>All persons</b>								
Less than 1 year	67.1	66.8	53.8	51.0	55.0	63.0	52.7	51.7
1 year and over	86.3	61.7	51.7	43.6	41.6	37.9	36.0	29.7
Not stated	5.7	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>159.0</b>	<b>128.9</b>	<b>106.0</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>101.1</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>81.5</b>

**Table 8 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex, age group and duration of unemployment (ILO)**

<sup>1</sup> 000

Duration	QNHS Dec-Feb 1999				QNHS Dec-Feb 2000			
	Age group			Total	Age group			Total
	15-24	25-44	45 or over		15-24	25-44	45 or over	
<b>Males</b>								
Less than 1 year	10.7	11.7	4.6	27.1	10.0	11.8	5.4	27.2
1 year and over	4.9	16.7	10.8	32.4	2.6	11.8	7.8	22.2
Not stated	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
<b>Total males</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>49.5</b>
<b>Females</b>								
Less than 1 year	8.8	11.3	3.9	23.9	8.6	11.9	3.9	24.5
1 year and over	3.5	4.8	2.9	11.2	2.1	3.5	1.8	7.5
Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total females</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>32.0</b>
<b>All persons</b>								
Less than 1 year	19.5	23.0	8.4	51.0	18.7	23.8	9.3	51.7
1 year and over	8.3	21.6	13.6	43.6	4.8	15.3	9.6	29.7
Not stated	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>81.5</b>

**Table 9 Labour force, unemployed and long-term unemployed (ILO)**

Period	Labour force	Unemployed	<i>of which</i>	Unemployment rate	Long-term unemployment rate
			Long term unemployed		
	'000	'000	'000	%	%
April 1988	1,327.7	217.0	137.8	16.3	10.4
April 1989	1,307.8	196.8	128.0	15.0	9.8
April 1990	1,332.1	172.4	110.2	12.9	8.3
April 1991	1,354.4	198.5	119.7	14.7	8.8
April 1992	1,371.8	206.6	116.5	15.1	8.5
April 1993	1,403.2	220.1	125.4	15.7	8.9
April 1994	1,431.6	211.0	128.2	14.7	9.0
April 1995	1,459.2	177.4	103.3	12.2	7.1
April 1996	1,507.5	179.0	103.3	11.9	6.9
April 1997	1,539.0	159.0	86.3	10.3	5.6
Sep-Nov 1997	1,643.9	171.6	90.2	10.4	5.5
Dec-Feb 1998	1,621.6	138.6	72.6	8.5	4.5
Mar-May 1998	1,621.1	126.6	63.5	7.8	3.9
Jun-Aug 1998	1,688.6	128.9	61.7	7.6	3.7
Sep-Nov 1998	1,650.7	106.0	51.7	6.4	3.1
Dec-Feb 1999	1,650.1	95.1	43.6	5.8	2.6
Mar-May 1999	1,688.1	96.9	41.6	5.7	2.5
Jun-Aug 1999	1,770.3	101.1	37.9	5.7	2.1
Sep-Nov 1999	1,736.1	88.7	36.0	5.1	2.1
Dec-Feb 2000	1,732.1	81.5	29.7	4.7	1.7

**Table 10 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by detailed ILO economic status**

<sup>1</sup> 000

ILO economic status	Labour Force Survey					Quarterly National Household Survey						
	April 1996	April 1997	Sep- Nov 97	Dec- Feb 98	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98	Dec- Feb 99	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>1,507.5</b>	<b>1,539.0</b>	<b>1,643.9</b>	<b>1,621.6</b>	<b>1,621.1</b>	<b>1,688.6</b>	<b>1,650.7</b>	<b>1,650.1</b>	<b>1,688.1</b>	<b>1,770.3</b>	<b>1,736.1</b>	<b>1,732.1</b>
In employment :	1,328.5	1,379.9	1,472.3	1,483.1	1,494.5	1,559.7	1,544.7	1,555.0	1,591.1	1,669.2	1,647.4	1,650.6
full-time	1,176.4	1,210.0	1,218.8	1,232.7	1,244.9	1,306.4	1,295.5	1,305.5	1,324.6	1,392.1	1,377.5	1,377.5
part-time :	152.1	169.9	253.5	250.3	249.6	253.3	249.2	249.5	266.5	277.2	269.9	273.1
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	128.6	148.1	228.0	232.2	239.4	245.6	241.7	242.9	260.6	272.2	265.2	269.5
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	23.5	21.8	25.4	18.1	10.3	7.7	7.5	6.6	5.9	4.9	4.7	3.6
Unemployed :	179.0	159.0	171.6	138.6	126.6	128.9	106.0	95.1	96.9	101.1	88.7	81.5
seeking full-time work	151.3	136.6	132.3	113.1	105.4	109.5	89.4	80.7	80.1	83.4	73.0	66.8
seeking part-time work	27.7	22.4	39.3	25.4	21.2	19.4	16.6	14.4	16.8	17.7	15.7	14.8
<b>Not in labour force</b>	<b>1,259.2</b>	<b>1,276.1</b>	<b>1,196.1</b>	<b>1,234.5</b>	<b>1,248.5</b>	<b>1,195.4</b>	<b>1,247.1</b>	<b>1,257.9</b>	<b>1,227.4</b>	<b>1,158.2</b>	<b>1,211.6</b>	<b>1,225.7</b>
Marginally attached to the labour force :	20.2	25.2	17.7	19.2	19.5	20.8	17.1	19.3	16.7	17.7	16.0	15.8
Discouraged workers	13.6	16.9	12.3	14.1	14.1	16.2	13.3	14.1	12.6	13.2	13.1	12.8
Passive jobseekers	6.6	8.3	5.4	5.1	5.5	4.6	3.8	5.2	4.1	4.5	2.9	3.0
Others :	1,239.0	1,250.9	1,178.4	1,215.3	1,229.0	1,174.6	1,230.0	1,238.5	1,210.7	1,140.5	1,195.7	1,209.9
Persons not in education, who want work <sup>1</sup>	54.1	71.9	52.0	56.3	58.7	55.6	52.6	57.7	61.8	67.0	64.3	61.5
Persons in education, who want work <sup>1</sup>	51.3	82.3	30.6	47.2	57.6	36.4	36.1	35.3	46.6	32.7	39.0	39.3
All other persons	1,133.6	1,096.6	1,095.7	1,111.9	1,112.7	1,082.6	1,141.2	1,145.5	1,102.3	1,040.7	1,092.4	1,109.0
<b>Total persons aged 15 or over</b>	<b>2,766.7</b>	<b>2,815.1</b>	<b>2,839.8</b>	<b>2,856.2</b>	<b>2,869.6</b>	<b>2,884.0</b>	<b>2,897.7</b>	<b>2,908.0</b>	<b>2,915.5</b>	<b>2,928.4</b>	<b>2,947.8</b>	<b>2,957.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> Persons who want work are those who are looking for work but are not available and those who say they want a job but are not looking for work.

**Table 11 Indicators of potential labour supply**

Period	S1	S2	S3
1992	16.0	20.7	22.0
1993	16.9	21.1	22.7
1994	15.9	19.8	21.5
1995	13.1	17.2	18.9
1996	12.7	16.0	17.5
1997	11.3	15.7	17.0
Sep-Nov 1997	11.1	14.1	15.6
Dec-Feb 1998	9.3	12.6	13.7
Mar-May 1998	8.6	12.1	12.7
Jun-Aug 1998	8.5	11.6	12.1
Sep-Nov 1998	7.2	10.2	10.6
Dec-Feb 1999	6.6	10.0	10.4
Mar-May 1999	6.4	9.9	10.3
Jun-Aug 1999	6.4	10.0	10.3
Sep-Nov 1999	5.8	9.3	9.6
Dec-Feb 2000	5.4	8.8	9.0

%

NOTE : Definitions of indicators by reference to Table 10 :

S1 : Unemployed plus discouraged workers as a percentage of the Labour Force plus discouraged workers.

S2 : Unemployed plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work as a percentage of the Labour Force plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work.

S3 : Unemployed plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work plus underemployed part-time workers as a percentage of the Labour Force plus marginally attached plus others not in education who want work.

**Table 12 Population aged 15 years and over classified by Principal Economic Status<sup>1</sup>**

'000

Principal Economic Status	Quarterly National Household Survey						
	LFS April 1997	Sep-Nov 98	Dec-Feb 99	Mar-May 99	Jun-Aug 99	Sep-Nov 99	Dec-Feb 00
<b>Males</b>							
At work	825.6	904.2	907.7	916.9	938.0	948.0	952.6
Unemployed	130.6	99.9	94.5	89.6	86.4	80.4	79.7
Student	176.1	169.0	175.3	175.9	163.1	172.4	173.2
Home duties	9.2	7.8	8.3	9.1	9.5	8.8	8.5
Retired	179.5	187.3	187.4	185.6	185.5	183.7	187.0
Others	62.0	55.6	56.2	56.4	57.1	55.2	53.9
<b>Total males</b>	<b>1,383.1</b>	<b>1,423.8</b>	<b>1,429.3</b>	<b>1,433.4</b>	<b>1,439.6</b>	<b>1,448.6</b>	<b>1,455.0</b>
<b>Females</b>							
At work	512.8	574.5	582.3	598.5	616.0	623.4	626.7
Unemployed	48.3	39.6	39.0	35.4	37.1	35.5	37.3
Student	181.9	182.8	188.1	189.8	173.0	186.7	191.1
Home duties	588.0	583.0	578.4	566.8	570.6	563.5	560.4
Retired	66.2	63.6	61.7	61.3	60.2	61.4	61.1
Others	34.8	30.5	29.1	30.2	31.9	28.7	26.1
<b>Total females</b>	<b>1,432.0</b>	<b>1,474.0</b>	<b>1,478.7</b>	<b>1,482.0</b>	<b>1,488.8</b>	<b>1,499.2</b>	<b>1,502.8</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
At work	1,338.4	1,478.7	1,490.0	1,515.4	1,554.0	1,571.4	1,579.3
Unemployed	178.9	139.5	133.5	125.0	123.5	115.9	117.0
Student	358.0	351.8	363.4	365.7	336.2	359.2	364.4
Home duties	597.2	590.8	586.7	575.9	580.1	572.2	568.9
Retired	245.8	250.9	249.1	246.9	245.7	245.1	248.1
Others	96.7	86.1	85.3	86.6	89.0	83.9	80.0
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>2,815.1</b>	<b>2,897.7</b>	<b>2,908.0</b>	<b>2,915.5</b>	<b>2,928.4</b>	<b>2,947.8</b>	<b>2,957.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> Classification based on respondent's own subjective assessment, see Background Notes.

**Table 13 Persons aged 15 years and over classified by ILO Economic Status and by Principal Economic Status, December-February 2000**

1 000

ILO economic status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
<b>Males</b>							
In employment :	948.2	2.6	23.7	0.4	3.3	1.6	979.8
full-time	905.4	1.7	1.3	0.2	0.4	1.2	910.2
part-time :	42.8	0.9	22.3	0.2	2.9	0.5	69.7
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	41.2	0.7	22.3	0.2	2.9	0.5	67.9
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	1.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
Unemployed :	1.1	46.1	0.9	0.2	1.0	0.3	49.5
seeking full-time work	1.0	45.0	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.3	47.3
seeking part-time work	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	2.2
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.3	7.5	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	9.6
Others	2.0	23.5	148.6	7.8	182.3	51.8	416.0
<b>Total males aged 15 or over</b>	<b>952.6</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>173.2</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>187.0</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>1,455.0</b>
<b>Females</b>							
In employment :	621.4	1.9	29.9	15.9	0.4	1.2	670.8
full-time	462.1	1.0	1.1	2.2	0.1	0.8	467.3
part-time :	159.3	0.9	28.9	13.7	0.3	0.4	203.5
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	157.6	0.8	28.8	13.7	0.3	0.4	201.7
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	1.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
Unemployed :	0.9	17.9	1.4	11.4	0.2	0.3	32.0
seeking full-time work	0.7	14.5	0.3	3.7	0.0	0.2	19.5
seeking part-time work	0.1	3.4	1.1	7.8	0.2	0.1	12.6
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.3	1.3	0.4	2.6	0.2	0.3	6.2
Others	3.1	16.2	159.4	530.4	60.3	24.4	793.8
<b>Total females aged 15 or over</b>	<b>626.7</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>191.1</b>	<b>560.4</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>1,502.8</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
In employment :	1,569.6	4.5	53.6	16.3	3.7	2.9	1,650.6
full-time	1,367.6	2.7	2.4	2.4	0.5	1.9	1,377.5
part-time :	202.1	1.8	51.2	14.0	3.2	0.9	273.1
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	198.8	1.6	51.1	13.9	3.2	0.9	269.5
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	3.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6
Unemployed :	1.9	64.0	2.2	11.6	1.2	0.6	81.5
seeking full-time work	1.8	59.6	0.6	3.8	0.5	0.4	66.8
seeking part-time work	0.1	4.4	1.6	7.8	0.6	0.2	14.8
Marginally attached to the labour force	2.6	8.9	0.5	2.8	0.6	0.4	15.8
Others	5.1	39.7	308.0	538.2	242.7	76.2	1,209.9
<b>Total persons aged 15 or over</b>	<b>1,579.3</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>364.4</b>	<b>568.9</b>	<b>248.1</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>2,957.8</b>

**Table 14 Total employment and private sector employment (ILO)**

<sup>1</sup> 000

	Labour Force Survey					Quarterly National Household Survey							
	April 1995	April 1996	April 1997	Sep- Nov 97	Dec- Feb 98	Mar- May 98	Jun- Aug 98	Sep- Nov 98	Dec- Feb 99	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00
1. Total employment (ILO)	1,282	1,329	1,380	1,472	1,483	1,495	1,560	1,545	1,555	1,591	1,669	1,647	1,651
2. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	149	141	142	135	134	135	136	136	137	136	142	140	134
3. Non-agricultural employment (1-2)	1,133	1,188	1,238	1,337	1,349	1,360	1,424	1,409	1,418	1,455	1,527	1,507	1,517
4. State-sponsored employment schemes <sup>1</sup>	41	40	41	40	40	41	41	40	41	41	40	38	39
5. Non-agricultural employment, excluding schemes (3-4)	1,092	1,148	1,197	1,297	1,309	1,319	1,383	1,369	1,377	1,414	1,487	1,469	1,478
6. Public sector employment <sup>1</sup>	294	301	297	296	301	300	304	301	306	306	309	297 <sup>2</sup>	303 <sup>3</sup>
7. Private sector employment (5-6)	798	847	900	1,001	1,008	1,019	1,079	1,068	1,071	1,108	1,178	1,172	1,175

<sup>1</sup> Based on administrative data.

<sup>2</sup> Revised following publication of Public Sector Employment release

<sup>3</sup> Provisional



## Background Notes

**Purpose of Survey** The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) began in September 1997, replacing the annual April Labour Force Survey (LFS). The purpose of the survey is the production of quarterly labour force estimates and occasional reports on special social topics. The survey meets the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 577/98, adopted in March 1998, which requires the introduction of quarterly labour force surveys in EU Member States.

**Reference Period** Information is collected continuously throughout the year, with 3,000 households surveyed each week to give a total sample of 39,000 households in each quarter. The first QNHS results related to the September-November 1997 quarter.

**Data Collection** Information is collected on laptop computers, using computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) software.

**Sample Design** A two-stage sample design is used. This comprises a first stage sample of 2,600 blocks (or small areas) selected at county level to proportionately represent eight strata reflecting population density. Each block was selected to contain, on average, 75 dwellings and the sample of blocks is fixed for a period of about five years. In the second stage of sampling, 15 households are surveyed in each block to give a total quarterly sample of 39,000 households.

Households are asked to take part in the survey for five consecutive quarters and are then replaced by other households in the same block. Thus, one fifth of the households in the survey are replaced each quarter and the QNHS sample involves an overlap of 80% between consecutive quarters and 20% between the same quarter in consecutive years.

The survey results are weighted to agree with population estimates broken down by age, sex and region. The population estimates for April of each year are published in a separate release.

**ILO Labour Force Classification** The primary classification used for the QNHS results is the ILO labour force classification. Labour Force Survey data on this basis have been published since 1988. The ILO classification distinguishes the following main subgroups of the population aged 15 or over:

**In Employment:** Persons who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business and all persons who had a job but were not at work because of illness, holidays etc. in the week.

**Unemployed:** Persons who, in the week before the survey, were without work and available for work and had taken specific steps, in the preceding four weeks, to find work.

**Inactive Population (not in labour force):** All other persons.

The labour force comprises persons employed plus unemployed.

**Participation and Unemployment Rates** The rates given in this release are based on the ILO classification. The Participation Rate is the number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 or over. The Unemployment Rate is the number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.

**Duration of Unemployment** The duration of unemployment is the length of time since a person last had a job or began looking for work, whichever is more recent. The long-term unemployment rate is the number of persons unemployed for one year or more expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.

**Underemployment**

In the LFS and in the first two quarters of the QNHS, a person who had a part-time job was classified as underemployed if he/she was looking and available for another part-time job or a full-time job.

Since the March-May 1998 quarter, the category "underemployed" has been based on a new question relating to the respondent's satisfaction with his/her current hours. Thus, a respondent who works in a part-time job is classified as "underemployed" if he/she is looking and available for another job and has explicitly stated that the hours worked currently are "too few".

This change has affected comparability (but only within the "At work, part-time" category) between the December-February 1997/98 and subsequent quarters.

**Principal Economic Status Classification**

Results are also available using the Principal Economic Status (PES) classification which was used in the Labour Force Survey and the Census of Population. The PES classification is based on a single question in which respondents are asked what is their usual situation with regard to employment and given the following response categories:

- At work
- Unemployed
- Student
- Engaged on home duties
- Retired
- Other.

This PES question is asked before the sequence of questions used to derive ILO status.

**NACE Industrial Classification**

The QNHS sectoral employment figures are based on the EU NACE classification as defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3037/90. Ten NACE sub-categories are distinguished in Table 2 of this release. About half of these categories correspond exactly or very closely with the sectoral breakdown formerly used in the LFS. However, there are some discontinuities between the old and new series. The CSO can provide tables showing the correspondence between the two classifications, using LFS data, to interested users.

The QNHS sectoral series in Table 2, in each quarter up to quarter one of 1999, were revised following improvements to the activity and occupation coding procedures in the survey. This had a marginal effect on the allocation of the employment figures between sectors but did not alter the main trends at sectoral level.

**Occupations**

Table 2b presents occupational data from the QNHS for the first time. The classification system used is based on the UK Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) with some modifications to reflect the Irish labour market. This classification was also used in the 1996 Census of Population and has replaced the previous Census and Labour Force survey occupations classification. The old and new classifications are not perfectly comparable. The 1996 Census of Population report on occupations (Census Volume 7) contains further information on comparing the classifications.

The data given in Table 2b is at a broad level, corresponding to SOC major groups. More detailed quarterly data is available on request from the CSO.

**NESF Recommendations on Unemployment Statistics**

In May 1997, the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) published its report on unemployment statistics (Forum Report No. 13) which included a range of recommendations on unemployment statistics. The CSO broadly supported the recommendations and, using them as a basis, proposed a new form of presentation for labour force statistics to the *Strategy Group on Employment and Unemployment (SGEU)*. The group endorsed the CSO's proposal and it was agreed by Government in December, 1997.

The new presentation is reflected in the prominence given to the ILO-based measures of employment and unemployment and in the introduction of a number of new summary labour market indicators.

### Labour Supply Indicators

Table 11 contains three indicators of potential labour supply. These indicators take into account, in addition to the unemployed, groups outside the labour force who have indicated some interest in obtaining a job. These extra groups include discouraged workers (who are not looking for work as they believe they are not qualified or that no work is available) and other groups who want work but do not meet all the ILO criteria to be classified as unemployed. Persons who indicated that they were not available or not looking for work because they were in education were not included in the calculation of any of these indicators. The indicators are available back to 1988, when the ILO classification was first included in LFS reports.

A further indicator, the percentage of households with children under 15 which have no person in employment, has been calculated for the years 1988 to 1997 and is available on request. This indicator will be published in due course in conjunction with a comprehensive analysis of quarterly household and family statistics from the QNHS.

### Comparing the LFS and the QNHS

The LFS was conducted each year in April and involved the completion of a written questionnaire in each of the sample households. The QNHS, on the other hand, involves continuous surveying (of 3,000 households each week) so that the results reflect the average situation over the course of three months. The LFS paper questionnaires have been replaced by laptop computers, allowing some key questions (such as existence of a job in the week before the survey, full-time versus part-time jobs) to be refined and improved. The main factors affecting comparability of the two surveys are:

- Seasonal effects on numbers employed and unemployed
- The change from a point-in-time to a continuous survey (survey reference period)
- Changes in the questionnaire, which has increased the observed level of labour force participation, particularly in part-time jobs.

The changes made to the questionnaire and their effect on the survey results are described below.

### Changes to Questions on Employment

The LFS question relating to ILO employment was a multiple choice question about the person's employment situation last week in which one of the response categories was "*Worked for at least 1 hour...*". This was replaced in the QNHS by the following three direct questions:

*"In the week ending Sunday dd/mm/yyyy did you do any work for payment or profit, even if it was for one hour?"*

*"Even though you did not do paid work in the week ending dd/mm/yyyy, did you have a job or business from which you were away and to which you expect to return?"*

*"Or, did you do any work for a business owned by another family member?"*

The second and third questions were only asked if the previous answer was "*No*". The main effect of these questions has been to elicit more information about part-time employment, so that the estimates of part-time employment are higher in the QNHS than in the LFS.

Information on full-time and part-time jobs is also collected using a more direct approach in the QNHS. The relevant LFS question distinguished four response categories, relating to occasional and regular as well as to full-time and part-time jobs. These concepts are now asked separately and the question on full-time or part-time work is as follows:

*"Thinking about the hours of work in the job, would you describe it as full-time or part-time?"*

This change has also increased the proportion of respondents indicating part-time involvement in the workforce. The effect of these changes is to cause a once-off discontinuity between the LFS and QNHS results.

**Effect of Questionnaire Changes, 1997-1998**

The Principal Economic Status (PES) results, which are broadly comparable between the LFS and QNHS, showed an annual increase of 88,300 in the At Work category between spring 1997 and 1998. This is below the increase of 114,600 observed in the ILO numbers in employment, which included almost 20,000 more students and about 5,000 more women working in the home who also had a job. The CSO is attributing 20,000 of the observed annual increase in ILO employment in the year to March-May 1998 to the improved coverage of part-time employment, giving an underlying change for the year of 95,000. Breaking this down for males and females, male employment is estimated to have increased by 52,000 and female employment by 43,000 between spring 1997 and 1998.

**Seasonality**

Seasonal factors do not affect annual comparisons of LFS/QNHS results. However, they do affect the sub-annual comparisons and the effects of seasonal variation in labour supply and demand are evident from the QNHS results.

Seasonal factors are most clearly visible in the results for the June-August quarter, when the number of persons in employment is at its highest. Unemployment also increases in that quarter, when more people are available and looking for work. Other summer seasonal effects can be seen in the sectoral employment figures (with strong results for retailing, hotels and restaurants) and in the lower number of students in summer. There is also evidence that employment and unemployment are both lower in the winter months.

However, it will not be possible to accurately calculate seasonal factors until the survey has been conducted for a number of years.

**NUTS2 and NUTS3 regions**

The regional classifications in this release are based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The NUTS3 regions correspond to the eight Regional Authorities established under the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order, 1993, which came into operation on 1 January 1994. The NUTS2 regions, which were proposed by Government and agreed by Eurostat in 1999, are groupings of the NUTS3 regions. The composition of the regions is set out below.

**Border, Midlands and Western NUTS2 Region**

<b>Border</b>	Cavan Donegal Leitrim Louth Monaghan Sligo
<b>Midland</b>	Laoighis Longford Offaly Westmeath
<b>West</b>	Galway County Borough Galway County Mayo Roscommon

**Eastern and Southern NUTS2 Region**

<b>Dublin</b>	Dublin Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Fingal South Dublin
<b>Mid-East</b>	Kildare Meath Wicklow
<b>Mid-West</b>	Clare Limerick County Borough Limerick County Tipperary North Riding
<b>South-East</b>	Carlow Kilkenny Tipperary South Riding Waterford County Borough Waterford County Wexford
<b>South-West</b>	Cork County Borough Cork County Kerry