



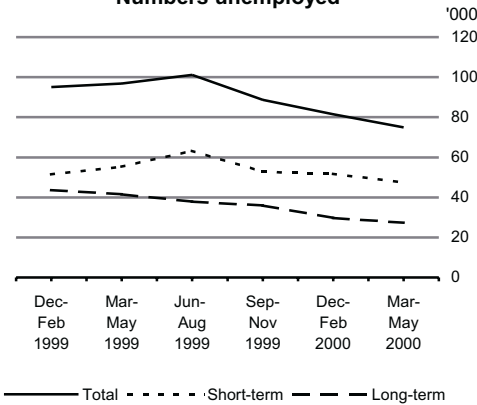
Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

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

12 September 2000

Quarterly National Household Survey Second Quarter 2000

Numbers unemployed



ILO Labour Force

	In Employment	Unemployed	Labour Force
Mar-May 1998	1,494.5	126.6	1,621.1
Mar-May 1999	1,591.1	96.9	1,688.1
Jun-Aug 1999	1,669.2	101.1	1,770.3
Sep-Nov 1999	1,647.4	88.7	1,736.1
Dec-Feb 2000	1,650.6	81.5	1,732.1
Mar-May 2000	1,670.7	74.9	1,745.6
<i>Change in quarter</i>	+20.1	-6.6	+13.5
<i>Change in year</i>	+79.6	-22.0	+57.5

Unemployment rate falls to 4.3%

The unemployment rate fell to 4.3% in the second quarter of 2000 compared with 5.7% in the same quarter of 1999. This reflects an annual fall of 22,000 bringing the numbers unemployed to 74,900. The fall in long-term unemployment accounted for almost two-thirds of the annual decrease. *See Tables 1 and 7.*

Of the 74,900 persons unemployed, an estimated 27,400 were long-term unemployed and 47,300 were unemployed for less than one year. Long-term unemployment fell by 14,200 in the year to quarter two of 2000. This means that the long-term unemployed represented 1.6% of the labour force in quarter two of 2000, down from 2.5% in the same quarter of 1999. *See Tables 7,8 and 9.*

There were 1,670,700 persons in employment in the second quarter of 2000. This compares with 1,591,100 in the corresponding quarter of 1999. The annual increase of 79,600 in employment comprised an increase of 42,600 for men and 36,900 for women. *See Table 1.*

Overall the labour force increased by 57,500 to 1,745,600, in the year to the second quarter of 2000. The labour force represents 58.9% of the population aged 15 or over. The participation rate for males was 71% and, for females, 47.2%. *See Table 1.*

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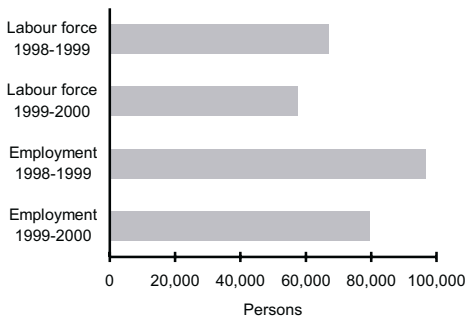
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Less than 75,000 unemployed

There were 74,900 persons unemployed in the second quarter of this year, of whom 44,900 were male and 30,000 were female. Unemployment was down 6,600 on the previous quarter, with a quarterly decrease of 4,600 for males and 2,000 for females. *See Table 1.*

There were 61,300 unemployed people looking for full-time work and 13,600 looking for part-time work in quarter two. An estimated 42,600 males and 18,700 females were looking for full-time work; while 2,300 males and 11,300 females were looking for part-time work.

Employment and labour force growth, 1998-2000



Labour force growth slower than in previous year

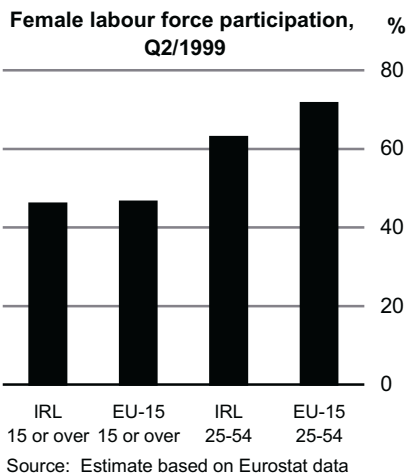
The increase of 57,500 in the labour force from spring 1999 to spring 2000 was somewhat lower than in the previous year. Between spring 1998 and 1999, the labour force grew by 67,000 persons. *See graph.*

Ireland's growing population and the increasing level of labour force participation have both contributed to the growing labour force in recent years. The most notable increases in participation rates have been in the age groups under 25 and for married females returning to the labour force. It is estimated that the increasing population of working age added 36,400 persons to the labour force between 1999 and 2000; while the balance of 21,200 reflects higher participation in the labour force. Between 1998 and 1999, the increase in participation had a bigger impact, adding an estimated 33,700 persons to the labour force.

The broadest survey-based labour supply indicator - S3, which includes persons outside the labour force who show some interest in obtaining work, as well as the unemployed - fell from 10.3% in quarter two of 1999 to 8.4% this year.

The labour force represented 58.9% of the population aged 15 or over in quarter two of 2000, compared with 57.9% in quarter two of 1999. The participation rate for males increased from 70.2% to 71% in the year and for females, from 46% to 47.2%. *See Tables 1 and 5.*

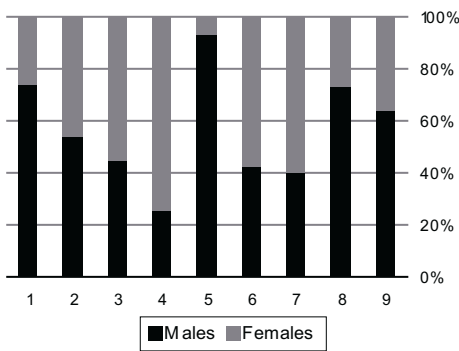
The latest available EU labour force survey results, for quarter two of 1999, show that female labour force participation in Ireland, at 46.0%, is very close to the EU-15 average of 46.5%. For women aged 25 to 54 - the age group with the highest level of labour force involvement- the female participation rate was 63%, compared with 71.6% in the EU-15. *See Graph.*



Large growth in construction and service sectors

Employment grew between 1999 and 2000 in all sectors except Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, which fell by 5,000. In the construction sector there was an increase of 24,200 and, in financial and other business services, an increase of 16,300. For females the biggest growth area was Education and Health, where employment grew by 11,000 in the year. *See Table 2a.* The private sector accounted for all of the annual increase and has contributed 400,000 to jobs growth in the past five years. *See Table 14.*

Gender breakdown of occupations



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

All occupational categories growing

The annual employment increase of 79,600 was spread across all occupations. For males, the number of plant and machine operatives grew by 11,800 and the number of craft and related workers grew by 10,800. However, the number of male managers and administrators fell slightly. For females, the greatest increases were in personal and protective service occupations (+11,000) and managers and administrators (+9,000).

Men continue to outnumber women by almost three to one in management and administration jobs while there are three times as many female as there are male clerical and secretarial workers. *See Table 2b.*

Increase in both full-time and part-time jobs

In the year to quarter two of 2000, full-time jobs increased by 65,500 to reach 1,390,100 and part-time employment grew by 14,100 to 280,600. This was made up of an increase of 12,200 females and 1,900 males in part-time jobs. The vast majority of the 280,600 persons in part-time employment indicate that they are satisfied with their hours and are not classified as underemployed. *See Table 1.*

Some 35% of women work for less than 35 hours a week compared with 8% of men. The number of persons working between 35 and 39 hours a week increased by 59,100 in the year to quarter two of 2000. The numbers working 40 hours or more decreased by 5,900 and the numbers working variable hours increased by 11,900. *See Table 3.*

The average working week was 38 hours in quarter two of 2000 compared with 38.1 a year before. For men the average working week was 42 hours and for women it was 32.8 hours. *See Table 3.*

Regional comparisons

Employment increased in all regions in the year to quarter two of 2000. The largest regional increase, of 22,600 persons, was in Dublin. *See Table 4b.*

Unemployment fell in the year in all regions except the West, where it increased slightly. The unemployment rate in quarter two was lowest in the Dublin region at 3.4%, and highest in the Border region at 6.6%. *See Table 4b.*

The annual increase of 57,500 persons in the labour force was spread across all regions, the largest increase being in the Dublin region (+16,200) and the smallest increase in the Border region (+1,800). Labour force participation was highest in Dublin and the Mid-East region and lowest in the Border region. *See Table 4b.*

Principal Economic Status

The number of persons describing their usual situation as at work increased by 72,700 to 1,588,100 in the year to quarter two 2000. This comprised an increase of 40,300 males and 32,400 females. The numbers describing their usual situation as unemployed fell by 15,200 in the year; the majority of this decrease was male. *See Table 12.*

The number of persons describing their usual situation as students grew by 8,900 in the year. There was an increase of 9,300 females and a decrease of 400 males. Over 16% of students had a job in quarter two, the majority of these part-time. *See Tables 12 and 13.*

The number of persons describing themselves as on home duties fell by 14,500. *See table 12.*

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

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ILO economic status	Mar- May-98	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00
Males						
In labour force	978.7	1,006.7	1,048.3	1,030.5	1,029.3	1,034.9
In employment :	899.9	947.3	989.5	977.5	979.8	989.9
full-time	829.4	877.5	914.8	908.5	910.2	918.2
part-time :	70.4	69.8	74.7	69.0	69.7	71.7
of which : <i>part-time, not underemployed</i> *	64.8	66.9	71.8	66.3	67.9	70.0
<i>part-time, underemployed</i> *	5.6	2.9	2.9	2.7	1.8	1.7
Unemployed :	78.8	59.4	58.8	53.0	49.5	44.9
seeking full-time work	75.8	56.8	55.6	50.2	47.3	42.6
seeking part-time work	3.0	2.5	3.2	2.8	2.2	2.3
Not in labour force	431.7	426.8	391.3	418.1	425.6	422.7
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	11.0	10.2	10.6	9.4	9.6	7.8
Others	420.7	416.6	380.8	408.7	416.0	414.9
Total males aged 15 or over	1,410.3	1,433.4	1,439.6	1,448.6	1,455.0	1,457.5
Unemployment rate %	8.1	5.9	5.6	5.1	4.8	4.3
Participation rate %	69.4	70.2	72.8	71.1	70.7	71.0
Females						
In labour force	642.4	681.4	722.0	705.6	702.8	710.8
In employment :	594.6	643.9	679.7	669.9	670.8	680.8
full-time	415.4	447.2	477.3	469.0	467.3	471.9
part-time :	179.2	196.7	202.5	200.8	203.5	208.9
of which : <i>part-time, not underemployed</i> *	174.5	193.7	200.4	198.8	201.7	207.0
<i>part-time, underemployed</i> *	4.7	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.9
Unemployed :	47.8	37.5	42.2	35.7	32.0	30.0
seeking full-time work	29.6	23.3	27.8	22.8	19.5	18.7
seeking part-time work	18.2	14.3	14.5	13.0	12.6	11.3
Not in labour force	816.9	800.6	766.9	793.6	800.0	794.3
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	8.6	6.5	7.2	6.6	6.2	4.4
Others	808.3	794.1	759.7	786.9	793.8	789.9
Total females aged 15 or over	1,459.3	1,482.0	1,488.8	1,499.2	1,502.8	1,505.0
Unemployment rate %	7.4	5.5	5.9	5.1	4.6	4.2
Participation rate %	44.0	46.0	48.5	47.1	46.8	47.2
All persons						
In labour force	1,621.1	1,688.1	1,770.3	1,736.1	1,732.1	1,745.6
In employment :	1,494.5	1,591.1	1,669.2	1,647.4	1,650.6	1,670.7
full-time	1,244.9	1,324.6	1,392.1	1,377.5	1,377.5	1,390.1
part-time :	249.6	266.5	277.2	269.9	273.1	280.6
of which : <i>part-time, not underemployed</i> *	239.4	260.6	272.2	265.2	269.5	277.0
<i>part-time, underemployed</i> *	10.3	5.9	4.9	4.7	3.6	3.6
Unemployed :	126.6	96.9	101.1	88.7	81.5	74.9
seeking full-time work	105.4	80.1	83.4	73.0	66.8	61.3
seeking part-time work	21.2	16.8	17.7	15.7	14.8	13.6
Not in labour force	1,248.5	1,227.4	1,158.2	1,211.6	1,225.7	1,217.0
Marginally attached to the Labour Force	19.5	16.7	17.7	16.0	15.8	12.2
Others	1,229.0	1,210.7	1,140.5	1,195.7	1,209.9	1,204.7
Total persons aged 15 or over	2,869.6	2,915.5	2,928.4	2,947.8	2,957.8	2,962.6
Unemployment rate %	7.8	5.7	5.7	5.1	4.7	4.3
Participation rate %	56.5	57.9	60.5	58.9	58.6	58.9

* 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)	Mar- May-98	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00
Males						
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	119.1	120.4	126.7	124.4	118.8	116.3
C-E Other production industries	210.8	215.7	222.3	214.6	213.2	213.1
F Construction	120.7	135.9	143.7	148.0	151.9	159.2
G Wholesale and retail trade	117.1	118.2	125.7	122.9	124.8	125.7
H Hotels and restaurants	40.5	41.8	45.1	41.9	43.5	44.0
I Transport, storage and communication	65.6	72.0	74.0	74.7	75.7	75.5
J-K Financial and other business services	85.5	99.2	104.3	103.1	104.1	107.1
L Public administration and defence	43.2	45.1	47.4	46.7	45.9	45.8
M-N Education and health	58.1	57.5	57.7	58.2	58.7	60.6
O Other services	39.2	41.5	42.6	43.1	43.1	42.7
Total males	899.9	947.3	989.5	977.5	979.8	989.9
Females						
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	15.9	15.5	15.5	15.6	15.0	14.6
C-E Other production industries	92.2	93.2	99.0	99.4	100.3	96.8
F Construction	5.4	6.1	7.2	6.8	7.8	7.2
G Wholesale and retail trade	94.3	105.1	110.7	106.3	108.6	110.1
H Hotels and restaurants	57.6	60.8	71.6	63.2	61.9	65.0
I Transport, storage and communication	21.3	23.9	25.9	25.2	25.5	25.2
J-K Financial and other business services	86.2	96.6	103.7	102.2	102.7	105.0
L Public administration and defence	27.5	29.3	30.4	31.6	30.9	32.0
M-N Education and health	148.8	163.0	161.3	167.6	168.0	174.0
O Other services	45.5	50.3	54.3	52.0	50.2	50.8
Total females	594.6	643.9	679.7	669.9	670.8	680.8
All persons						
A-B Agriculture,forestry and fishing	135.0	135.9	142.3	140.0	133.8	130.9
C-E Other production industries	302.9	308.9	321.3	314.0	313.5	309.9
F Construction	126.2	142.1	150.9	154.8	159.7	166.3
G Wholesale and retail trade	211.4	223.3	236.4	229.3	233.5	235.8
H Hotels and restaurants	98.1	102.6	116.7	105.1	105.4	109.0
I Transport, storage and communication	86.9	96.0	99.9	99.9	101.2	100.8
J-K Financial and other business services	171.8	195.8	208.0	205.3	206.8	212.1
L Public administration and defence	70.7	74.4	77.8	78.3	76.8	77.8
M-N Education and health	206.9	220.4	219.0	225.8	226.7	234.7
O Other services	84.7	91.8	97.0	95.1	93.2	93.4
Total persons	1,494.5	1,591.1	1,669.2	1,647.4	1,650.6	1,670.7

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

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Broad Occupational Group	Mar- May 98	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00
Males						
1. Managers and administrators	214.2	220.2	224.4	226.2	222.0	219.6
2. Professional	80.8	83.3	85.9	87.5	87.8	90.6
3. Associate professional and technical	53.6	58.3	59.5	59.9	60.6	62.4
4. Clerical and secretarial	47.5	51.3	55.1	51.2	51.1	50.0
5. Craft and related	185.1	202.5	206.0	209.3	211.8	213.3
6. Personal and protective service	63.2	67.6	69.4	66.8	68.8	69.3
7. Sales	48.6	49.7	54.8	52.1	53.5	54.4
8. Plant and machine operatives	118.9	122.3	131.0	127.2	128.4	134.1
9. Other	88.0	92.2	103.4	97.3	95.8	96.1
Total males	899.9	947.3	989.5	977.5	979.8	989.9
Females						
1. Managers and administrators	69.1	72.4	76.9	75.2	77.5	81.4
2. Professional	66.4	75.5	71.7	75.3	75.4	75.9
3. Associate professional and technical	66.1	72.5	74.6	74.4	74.7	76.8
4. Clerical and secretarial	136.5	149.1	156.6	153.4	152.5	154.4
5. Craft and related	15.5	16.5	16.6	16.6	15.8	14.6
6. Personal and protective service	77.2	85.4	95.6	93.0	92.6	96.4
7. Sales	67.2	77.5	82.9	79.5	79.6	82.3
8. Plant and machine operatives	41.2	40.2	46.0	47.1	48.0	45.8
9. Other	55.3	54.7	58.7	55.4	54.6	53.1
Total females	594.6	643.9	679.7	669.9	670.8	680.8
All persons						
1. Managers and administrators	283.3	292.6	301.3	301.5	299.5	301.1
2. Professional	147.2	158.8	157.7	162.7	163.2	166.5
3. Associate professional and technical	119.7	130.9	134.1	134.3	135.3	139.2
4. Clerical and secretarial	184.0	200.3	211.7	204.7	203.6	204.4
5. Craft and related	200.6	218.9	222.6	225.9	227.5	227.9
6. Personal and protective service	140.4	153.0	165.0	159.8	161.4	165.7
7. Sales	115.9	127.3	137.7	131.6	133.1	136.7
8. Plant and machine operatives	160.0	162.5	177.0	174.3	176.4	180.0
9. Other	143.4	146.9	162.0	152.7	150.4	149.2
Total persons	1,494.5	1,591.1	1,669.2	1,647.4	1,650.6	1,670.7

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

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Usual hours per week	Mar- May-98	Mar- May 99	Jun- Aug 99	Sep- Nov 99	Dec- Feb 00	Mar- May 00
Males						
1-9 hours	8.5	7.9	4.6	7.8	8.2	7.8
10-19	16.3	19.7	15.3	16.8	18.4	20.1
20-29	36.7	34.0	38.9	36.7	36.1	36.7
30-34	16.4	17.8	18.9	17.2	17.0	17.9
35-39	205.2	252.3	274.4	277.8	278.6	289.3
40-44	226.9	237.5	248.3	240.5	243.4	238.9
45 & over	236.7	215.4	222.1	216.3	216.2	209.6
Variable hours [†]	153.1	162.6	167.1	164.5	161.8	169.7
Total males	899.9	947.3	989.5	977.5	979.8	989.9
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>43.1</i>	<i>42.3</i>	<i>42.5</i>	<i>42.2</i>	<i>42.1</i>	<i>42.0</i>
Females						
1-9 hours	17.1	19.7	13.2	19.4	19.2	19.3
10-19	55.2	61.4	56.4	60.8	63.2	64.7
20-29	99.6	111.0	119.7	117.7	120.1	120.9
30-34	31.2	32.9	33.6	33.2	31.9	31.7
35-39	189.4	221.0	240.4	241.0	241.1	243.2
40-44	115.4	117.1	125.9	114.4	110.2	112.2
45 & over	43.1	38.7	40.3	38.7	41.7	41.8
Variable hours [†]	43.7	42.2	50.3	44.8	43.4	47.0
Total females	594.6	643.9	679.7	669.9	670.8	680.8
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>32.7</i>	<i>33.3</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>32.7</i>	<i>32.8</i>
All persons						
1-9 hours	25.6	27.7	17.8	27.1	27.4	27.1
10-19	71.5	81.0	71.7	77.6	81.6	84.8
20-29	136.3	145.1	158.5	154.4	156.2	157.6
30-34	47.6	50.7	52.6	50.5	48.9	49.6
35-39	394.6	473.3	514.8	518.8	519.7	532.4
40-44	342.2	354.6	374.2	354.8	353.6	351.2
45 & over	279.9	254.0	262.3	255.0	257.9	251.5
Variable hours [†]	196.8	204.7	217.4	209.2	205.2	216.6
Total persons	1,494.5	1,591.1	1,669.2	1,647.4	1,650.6	1,670.7
<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>38.8</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>38.5</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>38.0</i>

[†] Includes 'not stated'

Table 4a Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS2 regions¹ and ILO economic status

Region	In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation Rate
	'000	'000	'000	%	%
Border, Midland and Western					
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
Mar-May 2000	409.8	24.9	434.7	5.7	55.9
Eastern and Southern					
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
Mar-May 2000	1,260.9	50.0	1,310.9	3.8	60.0
State					
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
Mar-May 2000	1,670.7	74.9	1,745.6	4.3	58.9

¹ See Background Notes

Table 4b Persons aged 15 years and over classified by NUTS3 regions¹ and ILO economic status

Region		In employment	Unemployed	In labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
		'000	'000	'000	%	%
Border						
	Mar-May 1998	145.9	16.9	162.7	10.4	52.2
	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
	Mar-May 2000	161.7	11.5	173.1	6.6	54.1
Midlands						
	Mar-May 1998	77.2	6.7	84.0	8.0	53.2
	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
	Mar-May 2000	85.2	4.9	90.2	5.5	55.9
West						
	Mar-May 1998	139.9	9.8	149.7	6.6	53.1
	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
	Mar-May 2000	162.9	8.5	171.5	5.0	57.8
Dublin						
	Mar-May 1998	482.6	37.4	520.0	7.2	60.5
	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
	Mar-May 2000	533.8	19.0	552.8	3.4	62.7
Mid-East						
	Mar-May 1998	156.2	11.9	168.1	7.1	60.3
	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
	Mar-May 2000	177.6	6.9	184.5	3.7	62.4
Mid-West						
	Mar-May 1998	129.0	9.5	138.5	6.9	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
	Mar-May 2000	144.9	6.1	151.0	4.0	58.7
South-East						
	Mar-May 1998	149.3	16.1	165.4	9.7	54.3
	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
	Mar-May 2000	166.9	8.5	175.4	4.9	56.2
South-West						
	Mar-May 1998	214.5	18.3	232.8	7.9	54.5
	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
	Mar-May 2000	237.7	9.5	247.1	3.8	56.5
State						
	Mar-May 1998	1,494.5	126.6	1,621.1	7.8	56.5
	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
	Mar-May 2000	1,670.7	74.9	1,745.6	4.3	58.9

¹ See Background Notes

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

Marital Status	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Males									
Single	34.1	79.0	92.7	86.2	75.6	57.1	44.0	20.0	67.3
Married	*	80.4	96.7	95.5	90.8	77.7	57.2	14.7	76.9
Separated or divorced	*	*	92.6	88.6	80.8	66.6	34.4	15.5	73.0
Widowed	*	*	63.3	92.1	78.6	67.9	44.4	8.1	24.4
Total males	34.1	79.0	94.0	93.4	88.0	73.9	53.7	14.7	71.0
Females									
Single	26.2	68.1	86.2	81.4	70.1	53.3	33.5	4.1	57.8
Married	*	54.4	67.3	59.1	49.5	32.3	17.1	3.4	45.9
Separated or divorced	*	*	65.8	67.5	62.9	46.8	28.3	2.2	58.9
Widowed	*	*	67.5	59.2	50.3	32.6	18.6	2.4	9.4
Total females	26.2	67.6	77.2	63.1	52.2	35.0	19.5	2.9	47.2
All persons									
Single	30.3	73.6	89.8	84.1	73.6	55.7	39.8	12.6	62.9
Married	*	61.3	80.3	77.0	70.2	55.5	38.1	9.8	61.4
Separated or divorced	*	*	71.8	74.6	70.0	55.3	31.2	9.3	64.1
Widowed	*	*	66.3	68.9	58.4	41.1	24.3	3.5	12.5
Total persons	30.3	73.4	85.7	78.0	70.2	54.7	36.5	8.0	58.9

* 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+	
Males									
Mar-May 1998	13.3	11.3	7.6	7.3	8.3	6.0	4.3	0.9	8.1
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
Mar-May 2000	9.8	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	2.9	2.1	0.1	4.3
Females									
Mar-May 1998	15.8	9.3	6.2	6.4	7.8	5.5	2.6	0.5	7.4
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
Mar-May 2000	10.3	5.5	3.7	3.6	3.5	2.8	1.6	1.3	4.2
All persons									
Mar-May 1998	14.3	10.4	7.0	7.0	8.2	5.9	3.9	0.8	7.8
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
Mar-May 2000	10.0	4.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	2.9	1.9	0.4	4.3

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

¹ 000

Duration	LFS	Quarterly National Household Survey						
	April 1997	Mar-May 98	Dec-Feb 99	Mar-May 99	Jun-Aug 99	Sep-Nov 99	Dec-Feb 00	Mar-May 00
Males								
Less than 1 year	35.1	32.2	27.1	28.2	31.0	27.0	27.2	24.1
1 year and over	58.8	46.3	32.4	30.8	27.7	26.0	22.2	20.7
Not stated	3.1	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1
Total males	97.1	78.8	60.0	59.4	58.8	53.0	49.5	44.9
Females								
Less than 1 year	31.9	30.5	23.9	26.8	32.0	25.8	24.5	23.3
1 year and over	27.5	17.2	11.2	10.8	10.2	10.0	7.5	6.7
Not stated	2.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total females	62.0	47.8	35.2	37.5	42.2	35.7	32.0	30.0
All persons								
Less than 1 year	67.1	62.6	51.0	55.0	63.0	52.7	51.7	47.3
1 year and over	86.3	63.5	43.6	41.6	37.9	36.0	29.7	27.4
Not stated	5.7	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2
Total persons	159.0	126.6	95.1	96.9	101.1	88.7	81.5	74.9

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

¹ 000

Duration	QNHS Mar-May 1999				QNHS Mar-May 2000			
	Age group			Total	Age group			Total
15-24	25-44	45 or over	15-24		25-44	45 or over		
Males								
Less than 1 year	10.9	11.7	5.6	28.2	9.1	10.8	4.2	24.1
1 year and over	4.7	15.8	10.4	30.8	2.3	11.3	7.0	20.7
Not stated	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total males	15.6	27.6	16.2	59.4	11.4	22.2	11.3	44.9
Females								
Less than 1 year	9.7	12.9	4.2	26.8	8.8	10.7	3.8	23.3
1 year and over	3.0	5.0	2.8	10.8	1.7	3.4	1.6	6.7
Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total females	12.7	17.9	7.0	37.5	10.5	14.1	5.4	30.0
All persons								
Less than 1 year	20.6	24.6	9.8	55.0	17.8	21.5	8.0	47.3
1 year and over	7.7	20.8	13.1	41.6	4.0	14.7	8.7	27.4
Not stated	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total persons	28.3	45.5	23.2	96.9	21.9	36.3	16.7	74.9

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
Mar-May 2000	1,745.6	74.9	27.4	4.3	1.6

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

¹ 000

ILO economic status	Quarterly National Household Survey											
	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	Mar- May 00
In labour force	1,539.0	1,643.9	1,621.6	1,621.1	1,688.6	1,650.7	1,650.1	1,688.1	1,770.3	1,736.1	1,732.1	1,745.6
In employment :	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	1,670.7
full-time	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	1,390.1
part-time :	169.9	253.5	250.3	249.6	253.3	249.2	249.5	266.5	277.2	269.9	273.1	280.6
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	148.1	228.0	232.2	239.4	245.6	241.7	242.9	260.6	272.2	265.2	269.5	277.0
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	21.8	25.4	18.1	10.3	7.7	7.5	6.6	5.9	4.9	4.7	3.6	3.6
Unemployed :	159.0	171.6	138.6	126.6	128.9	106.0	95.1	96.9	101.1	88.7	81.5	74.9
seeking full-time work	136.6	132.3	113.1	105.4	109.5	89.4	80.7	80.1	83.4	73.0	66.8	61.3
seeking part-time work	22.4	39.3	25.4	21.2	19.4	16.6	14.4	16.8	17.7	15.7	14.8	13.6
Not in labour force	1,276.1	1,196.1	1,234.5	1,248.5	1,195.4	1,247.1	1,257.9	1,227.4	1,158.2	1,211.6	1,225.7	1,217.0
Marginally attached to the labour force :	25.2	17.7	19.2	19.5	20.8	17.1	19.3	16.7	17.7	16.0	15.8	12.2
Discouraged workers	16.9	12.3	14.1	14.1	16.2	13.3	14.1	12.6	13.2	13.1	12.8	9.6
Passive jobseekers	8.3	5.4	5.1	5.5	4.6	3.8	5.2	4.1	4.5	2.9	3.0	2.6
Others :	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	1,204.7
Persons not in education, who want work ¹	71.9	52.0	56.3	58.7	55.6	52.6	57.7	61.8	67.0	64.3	61.5	63.0
Persons in education, who want work ¹	82.3	30.6	47.2	57.6	36.4	36.1	35.3	46.6	32.7	39.0	39.3	51.5
All other persons	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	1,090.3
Total persons aged 15 or over	2,815.1	2,839.8	2,856.2	2,869.6	2,884.0	2,897.7	2,908.0	2,915.5	2,928.4	2,947.8	2,957.8	2,962.6

¹ 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
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
Mar-May 2000	4.8	8.2	8.4

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 Status¹¹000

Principal Economic Status	Quarterly National Household Survey						
	Mar-May 98	Dec-Feb 99	Mar-May 99	Jun-Aug 99	Sep-Nov 99	Dec-Feb 00	Mar-May 00
Males							
At work	874.0	907.7	916.9	938.0	948.0	952.6	957.2
Unemployed	111.3	94.5	89.6	86.4	80.4	79.7	74.9
Student	178.1	175.3	175.9	163.1	172.4	173.2	175.5
Home duties	8.0	8.3	9.1	9.5	8.8	8.5	8.6
Retired	186.8	187.4	185.6	185.5	183.7	187.0	187.5
Others	52.1	56.2	56.4	57.1	55.2	53.9	53.8
Total males	1,410.3	1,429.3	1,433.4	1,439.6	1,448.6	1,455.0	1,457.5
Females							
At work	552.7	582.3	598.5	616.0	623.4	626.7	630.9
Unemployed	43.1	39.0	35.4	37.1	35.5	37.3	34.9
Student	188.5	188.1	189.8	173.0	186.7	191.1	199.1
Home duties	578.5	578.4	566.8	570.6	563.5	560.4	552.8
Retired	68.0	61.7	61.3	60.2	61.4	61.1	60.7
Others	28.5	29.1	30.2	31.9	28.7	26.1	26.6
Total females	1,459.3	1,478.7	1,482.0	1,488.8	1,499.2	1,502.8	1,505.0
All persons							
At work	1,426.7	1,490.0	1,515.4	1,554.0	1,571.4	1,579.3	1,588.1
Unemployed	154.5	133.5	125.0	123.5	115.9	117.0	109.8
Student	366.6	363.4	365.7	336.2	359.2	364.4	374.6
Home duties	586.5	586.7	575.9	580.1	572.2	568.9	561.4
Retired	254.8	249.1	246.9	245.7	245.1	248.1	248.2
Others	80.6	85.3	86.6	89.0	83.9	80.0	80.4
Total persons	2,869.6	2,908.0	2,915.5	2,928.4	2,947.8	2,957.8	2,962.6

¹ 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, March-May 2000

1 000

ILO economic status	Principal Economic Status						Total
	At work	Unemployed	Student	Home duties	Retired	Others	
Males							
In employment :	953.4	2.7	28.2	0.4	3.4	1.8	989.9
full-time	911.7	1.7	2.7	0.2	0.5	1.4	918.2
part-time :	41.7	1.0	25.5	0.2	2.9	0.4	71.7
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	40.3	0.8	25.4	0.2	2.9	0.4	70.0
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7
Unemployed :	0.8	41.1	1.6	0.1	0.7	0.6	44.9
seeking full-time work	0.8	40.0	1.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	42.6
seeking part-time work	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	2.3
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.1	5.7	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.2	7.8
Others	2.1	25.4	145.2	8.1	183.0	51.2	414.9
Total males aged 15 or over	957.2	74.9	175.5	8.6	187.5	53.8	1,457.5
Females							
In employment :	626.1	1.9	33.7	16.9	0.6	1.6	680.8
full-time	464.0	1.1	2.5	3.1	0.2	1.1	471.9
part-time :	162.1	0.8	31.3	13.9	0.4	0.5	208.9
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	160.2	0.8	31.2	13.9	0.4	0.5	207.0
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9
Unemployed :	0.6	16.6	2.9	9.7	0.0	0.2	30.0
seeking full-time work	0.4	13.3	1.7	3.2	0.0	0.1	18.7
seeking part-time work	0.2	3.3	1.2	6.6	0.0	0.0	11.3
Marginally attached to the labour force	1.0	0.9	0.6	1.8	0.1	0.1	4.4
Others	3.2	15.6	161.9	524.4	60.0	24.8	789.9
Total females aged 15 or over	630.9	34.9	199.1	552.8	60.7	26.6	1,505.0
All persons							
In employment :	1,579.4	4.6	62.0	17.3	4.0	3.4	1,670.7
full-time	1,375.7	2.8	5.2	3.3	0.7	2.5	1,390.1
part-time :	203.7	1.8	56.8	14.1	3.3	0.9	280.6
<i>of which : part-time, not underemployed</i>	200.5	1.6	56.6	14.1	3.3	0.9	277.0
<i>part-time, underemployed</i>	3.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6
Unemployed :	1.4	57.7	4.5	9.9	0.7	0.8	74.9
seeking full-time work	1.2	53.3	2.7	3.2	0.3	0.6	61.3
seeking part-time work	0.2	4.4	1.8	6.7	0.4	0.1	13.6
Marginally attached to the labour force	2.1	6.6	1.0	1.8	0.5	0.3	12.2
Others	5.3	40.9	307.1	532.4	243.0	76.0	1,204.7
Total persons aged 15 or over	1,588.1	109.8	374.6	561.4	248.2	80.4	2,962.6

Table 14 Total employment and private sector employment (ILO)¹ 000

	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	Mar- May 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	1,671	
2. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	149	141	142	135	134	135	136	136	137	136	142	140	134	131	
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	1,540	
4. State-sponsored employment schemes ¹	41	40	41	40	40	41	41	40	41	41	40	38	39	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	1,501	
6. Public sector employment ¹	294	301	297	296	301	300	304	301	306	306	309	297	302 ²	303 ²	
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	1,176	1,198	

¹ Based on administrative data.² 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 reference quarters for survey results are: Q1 - December to February, Q2 - March to May, Q3 - June to August and Q4 - September to November.
Data Collection	Information is collected on laptop computers, using computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) software.
Sample Design	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
ILO Labour Force Classification	<p>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:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Inactive Population (not in labour force): All other persons.</p> <p>The labour force comprises persons employed plus unemployed.</p>
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. 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

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

Eastern and Southern NUTS2 Region

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