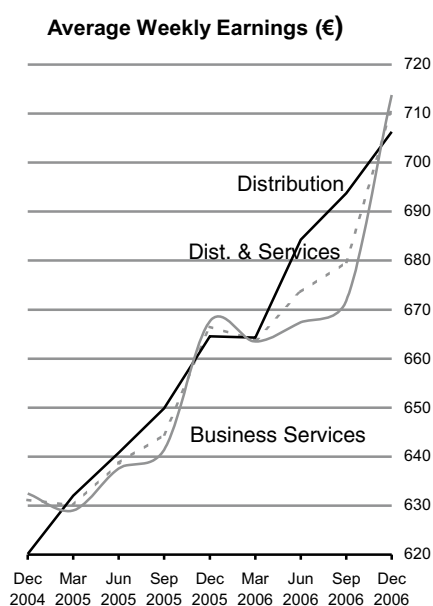


Earnings in Distribution and Business Services

September 2006 Final Figures
December 2006 First Estimates



Average Full-Time Weekly Earnings

	December 2005	December 2006	Annual Change
	€	€	%
Distribution & Business Services	665.56	711.01	+ 6.8
Distribution	668.96	706.30	+ 5.6
Business Services	663.55	713.78	+ 7.6

Average weekly earnings up by 6.8 % in December 2006

The average weekly earnings of full-time employees in distribution and business services were €711.01 in December 2006, compared with €665.56 in December 2005. This was an increase of 6.8 % in the year. The figures refer to employees in enterprises with five or more persons engaged. *See Table 1 & graph.*

Average weekly earnings in the distribution sector were €706.30 in December 2006, compared with a December 2005 level of €668.96, an increase of 5.6% in the year. *See Table 1.*

In the business services sector, average weekly earnings were €713.78 in December 2006, compared with a December 2005 level of €663.55, an increase of 7.6% in the year. *See Table 1.*

For more information contact Patrick Foley at 021-453 5012 or Sean Hurley at 021-453 5242.

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road
Dublin 6
Ireland

Skehard Road
Cork
Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414 (ROI)
0870 8760256 (UK/NI)

Tel: +353-1 498 4000
Fax: +353-1 498 4229

Tel: +353-21 453 5000
Fax: +353-21 453 5555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: www.cso.ie
and go to
Labour Market & Earnings: Earnings

Director General: Donal Garvey

Enquiries:

Earnings Statistics
Queries and Sales

QSI Section, ext 5242
Information Section, ext 5021
information@cso.ie

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Table 1 Average Weekly Earnings for Full-time Employees in enterprises with 5 or more persons engaged -

Distribution and Business Services

NACE Code	Sector	2003	2004				2005					2006					
		Year	March	June	Sept	Dec	Year	March	June	Sept	Dec	Year	March	June	Sept	Dec	Year
		€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
	Distribution & Business Services:	589.45	611.04	617.76	617.68	631.16	619.41	630.08	638.69	644.48	665.56	644.70	664.35	673.61	679.73	711.01	682.18
	Distribution:	596.58	612.76	617.80	621.12	628.81	620.12	632.03	640.77	649.82	668.96	647.90	665.60	684.27	693.75	706.30	687.48
50	Motor Trade	502.15	528.89	545.67	541.95	547.67	541.04	569.46	571.97	567.31	579.98	572.18	577.31	596.12	600.04	630.58	601.01
51	Wholesale Trade	598.76	616.72	614.86	629.70	644.22	626.38	651.85	658.82	665.42	685.84	665.48	683.27	699.35	706.27	724.08	703.24
52	Retail Trade	620.84	633.36	638.91	639.33	644.43	639.01	639.50	651.29	665.34	685.59	660.43	683.03	702.91	716.36	719.39	705.42
	Business Services:	585.53	610.07	617.73	615.76	632.49	619.01	628.99	637.55	641.34	663.55	642.86	663.61	667.43	671.80	713.78	679.16
55	Accommodation & Catering	367.45	388.34	389.25	394.42	411.06	395.77	404.54	412.65	424.52	432.98	418.67	426.27	427.99	433.11	436.04	430.85
60	Land Transport	591.41	614.84	622.69	617.12	641.98	624.16	638.57	651.06	650.90	665.63	651.54	664.80	673.46	674.71	709.43	680.60
61-63	Other Transport Activity	655.23	688.87	697.64	694.16	725.07	701.44	745.36	731.73	727.40	741.99	736.62	748.20	758.46	760.85	C **	C **
64	Post & Telecommunications	744.12	743.91	795.69	775.09	811.32	781.50	770.92	782.58	782.32	863.69	799.88	811.59	852.13	860.64	C **	C **
70-71	Real Estate,Renting of Machinery	640.67	690.34	698.86	724.82	725.91	709.98	741.27	752.30	773.87	780.32	761.94	808.52	806.60	843.40	866.23	831.19
72-73	Computing Activity, R & D	645.84	682.08	678.84	666.15	680.62	676.92	704.86	704.12	709.59	713.77	708.09	720.50	703.22	720.64	739.83	721.05
74	Other Business Activity	630.80	654.41	645.26	651.17	676.72	656.89	660.40	666.94	675.06	689.48	672.97	699.73	692.40	700.36	728.52	705.25

* First Estimates

** Suppressed for reasons of statistical confidentiality

Table 2 Summary of Average Weekly Earnings in Distribution and Business Services

	Distribution & Business Services	Distribution	Business Services
	€	€	€
1999 Year	466.20	440.46	480.55
2000 Year	505.01	489.59	513.52
2001 Year	545.41	534.42	551.46
2002 Year	563.58	567.50	561.43
2003 Year	589.45	596.58	585.53
2004 Year	619.41	620.12	619.01
2005 Year	644.70	647.90	642.86
2006 Year*	682.18	687.48	679.16
1999 1st quarter	454.85	427.08	470.62
2nd quarter	460.66	437.08	473.71
3rd quarter	464.80	444.88	475.90
4th quarter	484.46	452.80	501.93
2000 1st quarter	487.38	471.61	495.99
2nd quarter	496.28	481.64	504.35
3rd quarter	506.42	497.57	511.41
4th quarter	529.98	507.51	542.32
2001 1st quarter	538.00	526.04	544.53
2nd quarter	538.29	534.80	540.20
3rd quarter	548.12	533.47	556.00
4th quarter	557.21	543.40	564.63
2002 1st quarter	551.29	550.69	551.62
2nd quarter	556.87	562.07	554.04
3rd quarter	560.99	567.17	557.59
4th quarter	585.17	590.06	582.48
2003 1st quarter	582.08	591.83	576.72
2nd quarter	583.63	592.98	578.54
3rd quarter	585.01	595.28	579.30
4th quarter	606.86	605.80	607.43
2004 1st quarter	611.04	612.76	610.07
2nd quarter	617.76	617.80	617.73
3rd quarter	617.68	621.12	615.76
4th quarter	631.16	628.81	632.49
2005 1st quarter	630.08	632.03	628.99
2nd quarter	638.69	640.77	637.55
3rd quarter	644.48	649.82	641.34
4th quarter	665.56	668.96	663.55
2006 1st quarter	664.35	665.60	663.61
2nd quarter	673.61	684.27	667.43
3rd quarter	679.73	693.75	671.80
4th quarter*	711.01	706.30	713.78

* First Estimates

Background Notes

Introduction This Release details average weekly earnings of full-time employees in the Distribution and Business Services sectors. The series are derived from quarterly inquiries to enterprises, conducted under the Statistics (Business Accounts) Orders, 2006, made under the Statistics Act 1993.

The numbers of persons engaged in the Distribution and Services sectors, as estimated by the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), are shown in Table A in the Appendix. Early analysis showed that it would not be possible to derive reliable earnings estimates for part-time employees or for small enterprises with less than 5 persons engaged. These have been excluded from the current release.

The series, therefore, covers full-time employees in enterprises with 5 or more persons engaged. The survey collects details of the number of full-time employees (defined as persons working 30 or more hours per week) and their total wages. The number of hours worked was not sought, nor was any breakdown by gender or employment activity.

Scope The activity classification used is the NACE Rev. 1.1 classification. The survey relates to a week in the months of March, June, September and December. It covers a sample of enterprises in the Distribution sector (NACE divisions 50 to 52), and NACE divisions 55, 60 to 64, and 70 to 74 of the Business Services sector. The target sample size is approximately 25% of the total number of enterprises with 5 or more persons engaged.

Methodology Using the CSO Business Register, the sample in each quarter is classified into cells defined by NACE division and employment size. March 1998 was taken as the base period and average earnings per person per week were computed, from the survey returns, for each cell. These cell averages were then weighted by the corresponding estimated full-time employment to derive the average earnings at divisional and higher levels. The employment figures used for this weighting were the QNHS estimates for the December 1997 – February 1998 quarter, allocated to size classes using the Business Register.

For each subsequent quarter, a matched sample of enterprises making returns in both the current quarter and the previous quarter was used. The average weekly earnings in each cell of the matched sample for both quarters were computed. The quarter-on-quarter matched sample change in average weekly earnings in each cell was then applied to the average weekly earnings for the cell in the previous quarter, to produce the average weekly earnings for the cell in the current quarter. These cell averages were then weighted by QNHS-based full-time employment estimates for the current quarter to produce average earnings at divisional and higher levels.

Tables B and C in the Appendix show the number of full-time employees and the number of enterprises, respectively, covered by returns used to compile the average weekly earnings figures in each period since March 2004.

Definitions **Employee**

An employee is defined as any person working in the enterprise who is paid a definite wage or salary. Full-time employees are employees who work 30 or more hours per week.

Earnings

Earnings represent the gross amount (before the deduction of tax, PRSI, superannuation, etc.) payable to employees. Earnings include normal wages and salaries and overtime, taxable allowances, regular bonuses and commissions, as well as holiday pay and sick pay. Excluded from earnings are back-pay, redundancy pay, irregular bonuses (incl. annual bonuses), advances of pay, expenses, employers PRSI, and any earnings paid at irregular intervals.

Enterprise

An enterprise is defined as the smallest legally independent business unit. It may be comprised of one or more local units or branches.

Appendix

Table A Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) Employment Estimates¹ for Distribution and Services

NACE Code	Sector	Persons Engaged		Full-time Employees		Full-time Employees in Enterprises with 5+ Persons Engaged ²	
		Q4 2005	Q4 2006	Q4 2005	Q4 2006	Q4 2005	Q4 2006
Distribution & Business Services:		695,800	708,300	440,900	452,800	347,100	356,300
Distribution:		285,000	288,300	172,700	175,900	129,200	131,600
50	Motor Trade	42,500	43,800	28,600	30,000	20,400	21,400
51	Wholesale Trade	57,700	60,200	44,500	45,900	37,300	38,400
52	Retail Trade	184,800	184,300	99,600	100,000	71,500	71,800
Business Services:		410,800	420,000	268,200	276,900	217,900	224,600
55	Accommodation & Catering	115,500	116,600	63,000	67,300	48,100	51,400
60	Land Transport	53,100	48,800	30,800	25,800	24,800	20,700
61-63	Other Transport Activity	29,700	30,500	25,000	25,700	23,200	23,900
64	Post & Telecommunications	35,600	37,900	29,600	31,500	28,400	30,300
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	16,900	20,200	10,100	12,000	5,600	6,700
72-73	Computing Activity, R & D	36,800	38,500	30,600	31,600	26,300	27,100
74	Other Business Activity	123,200	127,500	79,100	83,000	61,500	64,500

¹ QNHS employment estimates for period August - October

² QNHS estimates, adjusted using size class details from the CSO Business Register

Table B The number of full-time employees covered by returns used in calculating the average weekly earnings

NACE Code	Sector	2004				2005				2006			
		Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.*
	Distribution & Business Services:	143,988	154,155	156,772	143,689	137,853	159,367	155,712	165,949	162,404	165,869	167,222	165,466
	Distribution:	39,967	46,904	47,866	40,717	40,667	51,445	49,277	51,467	53,526	57,105	53,998	53,116
50	Motor Trade	5,041	5,221	4,979	3,739	3,758	4,382	5,199	5,206	5,267	5,527	5,287	4,395
51	Wholesale Trade	15,265	17,333	19,740	16,142	14,914	21,158	22,001	22,512	22,334	24,936	23,440	22,621
52	Retail Trade	19,661	24,350	23,147	20,836	21,995	25,905	22,077	23,749	25,925	26,642	25,271	26,100
	Business Services:	104,021	107,251	108,906	102,972	97,186	107,922	106,435	114,482	108,878	108,764	113,224	112,350
55	Accommodation & Catering	16,623	17,042	15,003	12,376	11,621	18,290	19,760	19,396	17,724	17,840	18,666	17,213
60	Land Transport	13,191	13,262	13,707	13,479	13,389	13,581	13,870	13,918	13,606	13,509	13,517	13,225
61-63	Other Transport activity	15,989	15,182	15,235	15,008	14,161	12,169	11,964	13,918	10,190	12,882	12,867	12,949
64	Post & Telecommunications	19,728	20,950	19,709	20,788	22,604	20,498	19,695	20,418	20,379	20,405	19,491	19,603
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	2,736	2,696	3,005	2,749	3,016	4,056	4,417	4,281	3,823	3,833	4,378	3,307
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	7,252	9,194	10,369	9,374	8,572	9,959	9,622	11,063	10,235	10,448	11,628	12,129
74	Other Business activity	28,502	28,925	31,878	29,198	23,823	29,369	27,107	31,488	32,921	29,847	32,677	33,924

* First Estimates

Table C The number of enterprises covered by returns used in calculating the average weekly earnings

NACE Code Sector		2004				2005				2006			
		Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.*
Distribution & Business Services:		2,256	2,530	2,766	2,501	2,348	2,831	2,592	2,879	2,754	2,554	2,670	2,587
Distribution:		917	997	1,134	1,045	1,068	1,218	1,148	1,234	1,210	1,101	1,140	1,141
50	Motor Trade	147	141	184	197	195	219	212	244	242	215	204	186
51	Wholesale Trade	328	369	373	396	382	382	375	398	396	354	363	373
52	Retail Trade	442	487	577	452	491	617	561	592	572	532	573	582
Business Services:		1,339	1,533	1,632	1,456	1,280	1,613	1,444	1,645	1,544	1,453	1,530	1,446
55	Accommodation & Catering	427	464	465	433	381	511	490	545	490	460	504	452
60	Land Transport	86	100	103	90	81	80	87	96	93	87	86	74
61-63	Other Transport activity	86	107	101	91	74	87	88	93	93	83	86	90
64	Post & Telecommunications	34	45	42	37	36	37	34	41	38	31	29	37
70-71	Real Estate, Renting of Machinery	63	90	115	113	87	109	100	99	96	91	99	96
72-73	Computing activity, R & D	144	184	186	146	123	144	126	157	163	151	153	167
74	Other Business activity	499	543	620	546	498	645	519	614	571	550	573	530

* First Estimates