



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

# **Measuring Ireland's Progress**

## **Volume 1, 2003 - Indicators Report**

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## Preface

This is the first publication by the CSO of a set of national progress indicators. It is intended to compile and publish a similar report on an annual basis.

There has been a considerable focus in the past couple of years at national, EU and international level in trying to devise a set of indicators which, taken together, broadly summarise the progress being made in achieving desirable outcomes for society. In *Sustaining Progress*, the social partnership agreement 2003- 2005, the CSO was asked to develop a set of national progress indicators building on proposals in other reports. This Volume presents the results for a selection of 108 such indicators.

The progress indicators used in this report are intended to provide a synoptic analysis of the economic, social and environmental situation in Ireland. Indicators are most useful when they are relatively easy to read and understand; are relevant to policy; are reliable and have timely availability; and are sufficiently consistent to permit benchmarking over time and across countries. In this report, the results for Ireland are set as much as possible in the context of the corresponding position for the other 14 EU Member States as well as the 10 countries acceding to the EU in May 2004.

An accompanying second Volume - *Background Report* - is being issued contemporaneously. This considers some of the national and international work on indicators and discusses a range of issues to be taken into account when deciding which limited set of the many available indicators should be selected to give a meaningful and concise picture of progress in Ireland.

This is the first attempt by the CSO at publishing a set of national progress indicators for Ireland and, since alternative indicators might have been included, we are hoping for a lively feedback over the next few months. This will assist the preparation of subsequent reports. It is important to keep the set of indicators focussed on the key issues measuring Ireland's progress. Hence, when users propose additional indicators for inclusion, they should also indicate those of lower priority that might be excluded.



**Donal Garvey**  
**Director General**



**Chapter**

**1**

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**Introduction  
and  
outline of report**

## 1.1 Introduction

This chapter briefly reviews the background leading to the preparation of this preliminary national progress indicators report and the role of the social partners and the National Statistics Board (NSB) in requesting this work. The chapter also presents an overall summary of the selected indicators.

## 1.2 Request for indicator report

The social partnership agreement 2003-2005<sup>1</sup> requested the CSO to support a move towards more evidence-based policy-making by developing a set of national progress indicators. In its report, *Developing Irish Social and Equality Statistics to meet Policy Needs*, the NSB asked the CSO to prepare a preliminary national progress indicators report<sup>2</sup>. It was intended that this initial report would facilitate discussions between the main users and producers of key economic and social statistics with a view to reaching consensus on the most appropriate set of indicators to determine whether target national economic and social outcomes are being achieved.

The NSB reiterated the need for a key national progress indicators report in its *Strategy for Statistics 2003-2008*<sup>3</sup>. The Board requested that the selected indicators should be consistent with international statistical concepts and facilitate international benchmarking.

## 1.3 Overview of selected indicators

The list of selected preliminary national progress indicators is presented in summary format in Table A. A total of 108 indicators covering 48 domain themes have been selected. Around 57 per cent of these relate principally to social domains (3 to 9), reflecting the emphasis on societal outcomes as the ultimate aim of policy measures. The other indicators cover the economy, innovation and the environment.

Most indicators are presented in both a national and international context. The national context is generally in a time series format while the international context compares Ireland with other EU countries and acceding countries.

The accompanying Volume 2, 2003 – Background Report, describes a number of national and international reports which set a context for the selection of progress indicators for Ireland. It is hoped that this initial report will prompt feedback which will inform the preparation of subsequent reports.

## 1.4 Structure of report and brief technical notes

Chapter 2 presents the selected indicators. In cases where tables are not sorted by year, the sort data column is highlighted with a darker background. In international tables, the term EU in the table title includes the acceding countries when comparable data are available for them. The appendices describe the indicator definitions and data sources in greater detail.

In many tables, both GDP and GNI data have been given because Ireland is almost unique in the EU in the wide divergence between GDP and GNI.

<sup>1</sup> Department of the Taoiseach (2003): *Sustaining Progress, Social Partnership Agreement 2003-2005*

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation 10

<sup>3</sup> NSB (2003), *Strategy for Statistics, 2003-2008*, Stationery Office, Dublin

The national and international data sources are given for each indicator. Most of the national data are compiled by the CSO. In some cases, the survey name more widely used at EU level is quoted, for example, the QNHS is referred to as the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The figures in the tables and graphs reflect the data availability position as at early December.

Revised population estimates for Ireland for the period 1997-2001, arising from the 2002 Census of Population results have been used in a number of tables (see Appendix 1, Population domain).

**Table A Selected key indicators of national progress**

Domain	Domain theme	Indicator	
1. Economy	1. Gross domestic product	1.1	Ireland: GDP and GNI at current market prices, 1993-2002
		1.2	EU: GDP and GNI at current market prices, 2002
		1.3	EU: GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards, 2000-2002
	2. Government debt	1.4	Ireland and Eurozone 12: General government consolidated gross debt, 1993-2002
		1.5	EU: General government consolidated gross debt, 2000-2002
	3. Public balance	1.6	Ireland and Eurozone 12: Public balance, 1996-2002
		1.7	Ireland: Central and Local Government current expenditure, 1992-2001
		1.8	EU: Public balance, 2000-2002
	4. Gross fixed capital formation	1.9	Ireland and EU 15: Gross fixed capital formation, 1993-2002
		1.10	EU: Gross fixed capital formation, 2000-2002
	5. International transactions	1.11	EU: Current account balance, 2000-2002
		1.12	EU: Direct investment flows, 2002
	6. International trade	1.13	EU: Exports of goods and services, 2000-2002
		1.14	EU: Imports of goods and services, 2000-2002
	7. Exchange rates	1.15	International: Bilateral euro exchange rates, 1999-2002
		1.16	Ireland: Trade weighted competitiveness indicator, 1999-2002
	8. Interest rates	1.17	Eurozone 12: Convergence of interest rates for short-term loans to enterprises, 1993-2002
		1.18	EU: Annual interest rates for short-term loans to enterprises, 2000-2002
	9. Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices	1.19	Ireland and EU 15: Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices, 1996-2002
		1.20	EU: Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices, 2000-2002
10. Price levels	1.21	Ireland and EU 15: Comparative price levels of final consumption by private households including indirect taxes, 1992-2001	
	1.22	EU: Comparative price levels of final consumption by private households including indirect taxes, 1999-2001	
2. Innovation and technology	11. Science and technology graduates	2.1	Ireland: Science and technology graduates, per 1,000 of population aged 20-29, 1993-2001
		2.2	EU: Mathematics, science and technology PhDs awarded per 1,000 of population aged 25-34, 2000-2001

Domain	Domain theme	Indicator	
	12. Research and development expenditure	2.3	Ireland and EU 15: Gross domestic expenditure on R&D, 1992-2001
		2.4	EU: Gross domestic expenditure on R&D, 1991-2001
	13. Patent applications	2.5	Ireland and EU 15: Applications to the European Patent Office, 1992-2001
		2.6	EU: Applications to the European Patent Office, 2001
	14. Household internet access	2.7	Ireland: Private households with internet access, 1998-2003
		2.8	EU: Private households with internet access, 2002
3. Employment and unemployment	15. Employment rate	3.1	Ireland: Employment rates, 1994-2003
		3.2	EU: Employment rates by sex, 2002
	16. Labour productivity	3.3	Ireland: GDP and GNI in PPS per hour worked and per person employed, 1993-2002
		3.4	EU: GDP in PPS per person employed, 2001
	17. Unemployment rate	3.5	Ireland and EU 15: Unemployment rates, 1993-2002
		3.6	EU: Unemployment rates by sex, 2002
		3.7	Ireland and EU 15: Long-term unemployment rates, 1992-2001
		3.8	EU: Long-term unemployment rates by sex, 2001
	18. Jobless households	3.9	Ireland: Population aged 18-59 living in jobless households, 1993-2002
		3.10	EU: Population aged 18-59 living in jobless households, 2000-2002
19. Older workers	3.11	EU: Employment rate of workers aged 55-64 by sex, 2001	
	3.12	EU: Average exit age from the labour force by sex, 2001	
4. Social cohesion	20. Voter turnout	4.1	Ireland: Numbers voting in Dáil elections, 1973-2002
		4.2	EU: Votes recorded at national parliamentary elections, 1981-2002
	21. Official development assistance	4.3	Ireland: Net official development assistance, 1993-2002
		4.4	EU: Net official development assistance, 2001
	22. Risk of poverty	4.5	Ireland: At risk of poverty rate, 1995-2000
		4.6	EU: At risk of poverty rate, 2000
		4.7	Ireland: Persons experiencing consistent poverty, 1998-2001
		4.8	EU: At persistent risk of poverty rate, 2000
		4.9	EU: At risk of poverty rate anchored at a moment in time, 1996-2000
	23. Gender pay gap	4.10	EU: Female earnings as proportion of male earnings, 1998-2000

Domain	Domain theme	Indicator	
5. Education	24. Education expenditure	5.1	Ireland: Real non-capital expenditure on education, 1998-2002
		5.2	Ireland: Student numbers by level, 1994-2002
		5.3	EU: Public expenditure on education, 1998-2000
	25. Pupil-teacher ratio	5.4	EU: Ratio of students to teachers, 2001
		5.5	EU: Average class size at ISCED levels 1 and 2, 2001
	26. Third level education	5.6	Ireland: Population aged 25-34 with 3 <sup>rd</sup> level education, 1999-2002
		5.7	EU: Population aged 25-34 with 3 <sup>rd</sup> level education by sex, 2002
	27. Literacy	5.8	Ireland: Student performance on the combined reading, mathematical and scientific literacy scales by sex, 2000
		5.9	EU: Student performance on the combined reading, mathematical and scientific literacy scales, 2000
	28. Early school leavers	5.10	Ireland: Early school leavers by labour force status and sex, 2002
		5.11	Ireland: Proportion of the population aged 20-64 with, at least, upper secondary education, 2002
		5.12	EU: Early school leavers, 2002
6. Health	29. Health care expenditure	6.1	Ireland: Non-capital public expenditure on health care, 1993-2002
		6.2	EU: Total expenditure on health as percentage of GDP, 1998-2000
	30. Life expectancy	6.3	Ireland: Life expectancy at birth and at age 65 by sex, 1925-1997
		6.4	EU: Life expectancy at birth by sex, 2001
7. Population	31. Population distribution	7.1	Ireland: Population distribution by age group, 1994-2003
		7.2	Ireland: Household composition, 1994-2003
		7.3	EU: Population change, 1992-2001
	32. Migration	7.4	Ireland: Migration and natural increase, 1994-2003
		7.5	Ireland: Immigration by country of origin, 1994-2003
		7.6	Ireland and EU 15: Rate of natural increase of population, 1993-2002
	33. Age of population	7.7	Ireland: Average age of population for census years by sex, 1926-2002
		7.8	Ireland: Age dependency ratio, 1994-2003
		7.9	EU: Young and old as proportion of population aged 15-64, 2001
	34. Fertility	7.10	Ireland and EU 15: Total fertility rate, 1992-2001
		7.11	EU: Total fertility rate, 1991-2001

Domain	Domain theme	Indicator	Indicator
	35. Lone parent families	7.12	Ireland: Lone parent families with children aged under 20 by sex of parent, 1994-2003
		7.13	Ireland: Adult members of family units, 1994-2003
	36. Persons aged 65 and over living alone	7.14	Ireland: Persons aged 65 and over living alone by sex, 1994-2003
8. Housing	37. Dwelling completions	8.1	Ireland: Dwelling unit completions, 1993-2002
	38. Owner-occupiers	8.2	EU: Owner-occupiers, 1995-2000
		8.3	Ireland: Nature of occupancy of private households, 1961-2002
	39. Mortgages	8.4	Ireland: New housing loans, 1993-2002
		8.5	EU: Annual average interest rates for mortgages, 2000-2002
9. Crime	40. Headline offences	9.1	Ireland: Headline offences detection rates by Garda Division, 2000-2002
		9.2	Ireland: Headline offences recorded by Garda Division, 2002
		9.3	Ireland: Indictable/headline offences recorded, 1970-2002
	41. Homicide rate	9.4	Ireland: Homicides recorded, 1970-2002
		9.5	EU: Homicide rate per 100,000 population, 2000-2002
10. Environment	42. Greenhouse gases	10.1	Ireland: Total net greenhouse gas emissions (based on CO <sub>2</sub> equivalents), 1990-2001
		10.2	EU: Net greenhouse gas emissions, 2000, and Kyoto 2008-2012 target
	43. Energy intensity of economy	10.3	Ireland: Gross inland consumption of energy at constant 1995 prices, 1992-2001
		10.4	EU: Gross inland consumption of energy at constant 1995 prices, 2000
	44. River water quality	10.5	Ireland: River water quality, 1987-2000
	45. Urban air quality	10.6	Ireland: Smoke concentrations in urban areas, 1985-2001
	46. Acid rain precursors	10.7	Ireland: Acid rain precursor emissions, 1999-2001
		10.8	Ireland: Acid rain precursor emissions, 1992-2001
	47. Waste management	10.9	Ireland: Waste collected and percentage landfilled by type, 1998-2001
		10.10	EU: Municipal waste collected and landfilled, 2000

Domain	Domain theme	Indicator
	48. Transport	10.11 Ireland: Private cars under current licence, 1993-2002 10.12 EU: Passenger cars per 1,000 population, 2000 10.13 Ireland and EU 15: Share of road in total inland freight transport, 1991-2000 10.14 EU: Share of road in total inland freight transport, 1999-2001 10.15 Ireland and EU 15: Index of inland freight transport volume, 1992-2001 10.16 EU: Index of inland freight transport volume, 1999-2001