

Chapter 5



LABOUR MARKET

INTRODUCTION

The Northern Ireland labour market is characterised by relatively high levels of economic inactivity. Around 28 per cent of the population of working age are not active in the labour market at all, that is they are neither employed nor actively seeking employment (unemployed). The levels of inactivity are partially attributable to a relatively young population with an associated relatively high proportion of students - apart from this, the primary reason for inactivity in the Northern Ireland labour market is long-term illness or disability. Similarly high levels of inactivity can be seen in the Republic of Ireland in the early 1990s. However, with the growth of the Celtic Tiger, the Republic of Ireland labour market has witnessed notable improvements in all aspects, namely participation, employment and unemployment rates. Despite the relatively persistent problem of inactivity, the NI labour market has seen an increase in the number of people in employment over the last decade.

The public sector is an important source of employment in Northern Ireland. The public sector dominated industries such as public administration, health and education services accounting for over one-third of all persons in employment in Northern Ireland. Beyond the public sector, wholesale and retail trade, production industries and construction are the three foremost industrial sectors for

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employment in Northern Ireland. However, in the Republic of Ireland, just over a fifth of those in employment work in public administration, health and education services. Like Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland has a high proportion of its employment in the wholesale and retail trade, production industries and construction industries but it also has over 13 per cent of its workforce employed in the financial and other business services industry.

Table 5.1 International Labour Organisation (ILO) economic status

Thousands and rates

Description	Spring 1996	Spring 2002	Spring 2003	Spring 2004	Spring 2005	Spring 2006
Republic of Ireland						
Persons of working age¹						
In labour force	1,459	1,785	1,819	1,863	1,951	2,038
In employment	1,283	1,709	1,737	1,780	1,867	1,947
full-time	1,139	1,438	1,456	1,492	1,561	1,627
part-time	144	271	282	288	305	319
Unemployed	176	76	81	83	85	91
Not in labour force	751	730	745	746	720	711
Total	2,210	2,515	2,564	2,609	2,672	2,749
Employment rate%	58.1	67.9	67.8	68.2	69.9	70.8
Unemployment rate %	12.1	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5
Participation rate %	66.0	71.0	70.9	71.4	73.0	74.1
Northern Ireland						
Persons of working age¹						
In labour force	699	730	757	729	749	759
In employment	631	690	716	694	713	725
full-time	496	545	561	551	569	582
part-time	124	144	152	139	141	140
Unemployed	68	40	41	35	36	34
Not in labour force	280	296	277	312	299	295
Total	979	1,026	1,034	1,041	1,048	1,054
Employment rate %	64.5	67.2	69.3	66.6	68.0	68.8
Unemployment rate %	9.7	5.5	5.4	4.8	4.7	4.4
Participation rate %	71.4	71.1	73.2	70.0	71.4	72.0

Sources Republic of Ireland: Quarterly National Household Survey (Labour Force Survey pre 1997), CSO
Northern Ireland: Labour Force Survey, DETI

¹Working age refers to ages 16 to 59 for females and 16 to 64 for males.

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Figure 5.1 Employment rates: 1996; 2002 - 2006



In the period 1996 – 2006, the Republic of Ireland has shown a marked improvement in its employment rate, unemployment rate and participation rate, in line with the growth of the Celtic Tiger. Between Spring 1996 and Spring 2006, the employment rate rose from 58.1 per cent to 70.8 per cent, unemployment fell from 12.1 per cent to 4.5 per cent and the overall participation rate rose from 66 per cent to 74.1 per cent.

In Northern Ireland, progress has also been positive but to a lesser degree. The employment rate has generally shown an increase from its rate of 64.5 per cent in Spring 1996, albeit, with a decrease in Spring 2004. In Spring 2006, the employment rate stood at 68.8 per cent. The unemployment rate in Northern Ireland stood at 9.7 per cent in Spring 1998 and has since more than halved by Spring 2006 (4.4 per cent). However, in this time the participation rate in Northern Ireland has remained relatively constant.

Figure 5.2 Unemployment rates: 1996; 2002 - 2006

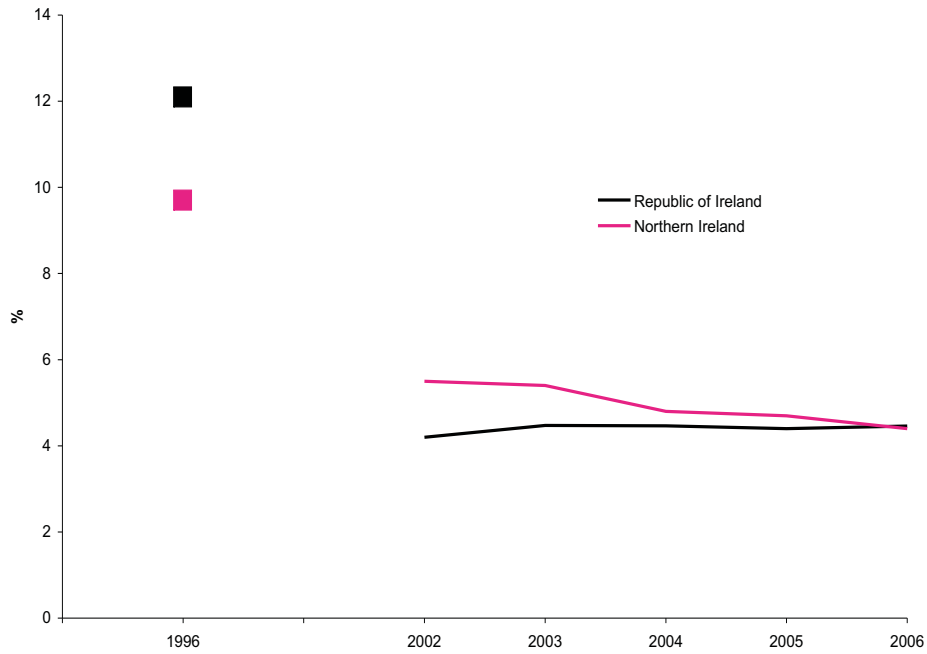


Table 5.2 (a) Males by ILO economic status

Thousands and rates

Description	Spring 1996	Spring 2002	Spring 2003	Spring 2004	Spring 2005	Spring 2006
Republic of Ireland						
Males aged 16 - 64						
In labour force	897	1,047	1,065	1,092	1,133	1,187
In employment	788	998	1,013	1,038	1,080	1,131
full-time	750	939	952	980	1,018	1,061
part-time	38	59	61	57	62	71
Unemployed	109	49	52	54	53	55
Not in labour force	247	254	262	260	255	248
Total males	1,144	1,301	1,327	1,351	1,389	1,435
Employment rate%	68.9	76.7	76.3	76.8	77.8	78.8
Unemployment rate %	12.1	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.6
Participation rate %	78.4	80.4	80.2	80.8	81.6	82.7
Northern Ireland						
Males aged 16 - 64						
In labour force	402	407	429	407	418	420
In employment	351	381	404	382	395	397
full-time	329	360	374	352	369	367
part-time	16	21	28	27	25	27
Unemployed	50	25	25	25	23	23
Not in labour force	99	118	101	127	120	122
Total males	501	525	530	534	538	541
Employment rate %	70.1	72.6	76.3	71.5	73.4	73.3
Unemployment rate %	12.6	6.3	5.8	6.2	5.6	5.5
Participation rate %	80.2	77.5	81.0	76.2	77.8	77.5

Sources Republic of Ireland: Quarterly National Household Survey (Labour Force Survey pre 1997), CSO
Northern Ireland: Labour Force Survey, DETI

Table 5.2 (b) Females by ILO economic status

Thousands and rates

Description	Spring 1996	Spring 2002	Spring 2003	Spring 2004	Spring 2005	Spring 2006
Republic of Ireland						
Females aged 16 - 59						
In labour force	562	738	754	772	818	851
In employment	494	710	725	743	787	815
full-time	388	498	504	512	543	567
part-time	106	212	221	231	243	249
Unemployed	67	28	30	29	32	36
Not in labour force	505	475	483	486	465	463
Total females	1,066	1,213	1,237	1,258	1,283	1,315
Employment rate%	46.4	58.5	58.6	59.1	61.3	62.0
Unemployment rate %	12.0	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.2
Participation rate %	52.7	60.8	61.0	61.4	63.8	64.7
Northern Ireland						
Females aged 16 - 59						
In labour force	297	323	328	322	331	339
In employment	280	308	312	312	318	329
full-time	167	185	187	199	201	214
part-time	109	123	124	112	116	113
Unemployed	17	15	16	10	12	10
Not in labour force	181	178	176	186	180	174
Total females	478	501	504	507	510	513
Employment rate %	58.6	61.6	61.9	61.5	62.4	64.1
Unemployment rate %	5.8	4.6	4.8	3.0	3.7	3.1
Participation rate %	62.2	64.5	65.0	63.4	64.8	66.1

Sources Republic of Ireland: Quarterly National Household Survey (Labour Force Survey pre 1997), CSO
 Northern Ireland: Labour Force Survey, DETI

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The improving labour market in the Republic of Ireland over the decade 1996 to 2006 has benefited both males and females, although the changes in respect of females in the labour market are of particular note. Over the period female employment, unemployment and participation rates have improved considerably.

In Northern Ireland, over the same period, there has been a general increase in female participation in the labour market. However, this has been offset by a general decline in the participation rate for males. Within Northern Ireland, the male unemployment rate has, in general, displayed a considerable fall over the period 1996 to 2006.

Table 5.3 (a) Labour force participation rates by age in the Republic of Ireland

Percentages

Persons	Spring 1996	Spring 2002	Spring 2003	Spring 2004	Spring 2005	Spring 2006
16-24	49.9	53.5	53.9	53.3	55.5	57.6
25-34	82.3	84.9	83.8	84.1	85.1	86.0
35-44	74.5	79.2	79.5	79.5	80.2	80.4
45-54	65.0	72.7	72.5	74.7	76.4	76.6
55-59	51.2	56.9	58.4	59.0	60.2	62.6
60-64	51.9	55.6	55.5	54.9	60.0	58.3
65+	15.3	15.1	14.1	13.7	14.6	14.5

Source Republic of Ireland: Quarterly National Household Survey (Labour Force Survey pre 1997), CSO

Table 5.3 (b) Labour force participation rates by age in Northern Ireland

Percentages

Persons	Spring 1996	Spring 2002	Spring 2003	Spring 2004	Spring 2005	Spring 2006
16-24	62.0	55.3	63.4	55.5	55.3	57.4
25-34	80.5	84.6	81.1	80.6	83.4	84.6
35-44	79.9	77.5	78.7	77.2	79.7	78.9
45-54	72.2	75.9	77.7	73.4	75.1	74.9
55-64	43.3	46.7	51.0	49.3	49.3	49.2
65+	6.0	5.9	6.6	3.9	5.7	6.7

Source Northern Ireland: Labour Force Survey, DETI

In the period shown and when compared with Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland has had a higher participation rate for those in older age groups (i.e. over 55) while those aged below 55 show broadly similar participation rates.

In both areas there have been particular improvements in participation rates among the older age groups. In Northern Ireland there has been particularly strong growth in participation among those aged 55-64. In the Republic of Ireland participation rates among those in the age groups 55-59 and 45-54 have also improved considerably.

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Table 5.4 (a) Persons of working age¹ in employment by gender and industry, Spring 1996

Industrial Sector	Thousands			Percentages		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Republic of Ireland						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	107	13	120	13.6	2.6	9.4
Other production industries	187	77	265	23.8	15.6	20.6
Construction	94	6	100	11.9	1.2	7.8
Wholesale and retail trade	104	74	179	13.2	15.0	13.9
Hotels and restaurants	31	40	71	4.0	8.0	5.5
Transport, storage and communication	48	12	60	6.1	2.5	4.7
Financial and other business services	70	64	133	8.8	12.8	10.4
Public administration and defence	46	29	75	5.8	5.8	5.8
Education	35	59	94	4.4	12.0	7.3
Health	27	82	110	3.5	16.6	8.5
Other services	38	39	77	4.8	7.8	6.0
All industries	788	494	1,283	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	22	*	25	6.4	*	4.0
Other production industries	75	27	102	21.6	9.9	16.4
Construction	51	*	58	14.9	*	9.3
Wholesale and retail trade	56	49	105	16.2	17.7	16.9
Hotels and restaurants	14	16	30	4.0	5.7	4.8
Transport, storage and communication	23	*	28	6.7	*	4.4
Financial and other business services	*	13	20	*	4.7	3.3
Public administration and defence	51	55	106	14.8	20.0	17.1
Education	18	38	56	5.2	13.7	9.0
Health	12	45	57	3.4	16.5	9.2
Other services	16	19	34	4.5	6.7	5.5
All industries	345	275	620	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources Republic of Ireland: Quarterly National Household Survey (Labour Force Survey pre 1997), CSO
Northern Ireland: Labour Force Survey, DETI

¹Working age refers to ages 16 to 59 for females and 16 to 64 for males.

Table 5.4 (b) Persons of working age¹ in employment by gender and industry, Spring 2006

Industrial Sector	Thousands			Percentages		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Republic of Ireland						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	89	8	97	7.9	1.0	5.0
Other production industries	202	82	284	17.9	10.0	14.6
Construction	247	13	260	21.9	1.6	13.4
Wholesale and retail trade	141	135	276	12.4	16.5	14.2
Hotels and restaurants	49	63	112	4.3	7.8	5.8
Transport, storage and communication	91	28	118	8.0	3.4	6.1
Financial and other business services	134	128	261	11.8	15.7	13.4
Public administration and defence	51	52	103	4.5	6.4	5.3
Education	38	91	129	3.4	11.2	6.6
Health	34	156	190	3.0	19.1	9.8
Other services	55	59	115	4.9	7.3	5.9
All industries	1,131	815	1,947	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	20	*	21	5.0	*	2.9
Other production industries	84	23	107	21.4	7.0	14.9
Construction	70	*	76	17.8	*	10.5
Wholesale and retail trade	57	53	110	14.5	16.3	15.3
Hotels and restaurants	16	17	32	4.0	5.1	4.5
Transport, storage and communication	26	8	34	6.5	2.6	4.7
Financial and other business services	*	11	19	*	3.5	2.7
Public administration and defence	45	40	84	11.4	12.1	11.7
Education	10	49	59	2.6	14.9	8.2
Health	16	82	98	4.0	25.2	13.7
Other services	42	36	79	10.8	11.1	10.9
All industries	393	327	720	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources Republic of Ireland: Quarterly National Household Survey (Labour Force Survey pre 1997), CSO
Northern Ireland: Labour Force Survey, DETI

¹Working age refers to ages 16 to 59 for females and 16 to 64 for males.

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In 2006, when compared with 1996, both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland have experienced a drop in the percentage share of the workforce based in traditional agricultural and production industries. In particular, the Republic of Ireland has seen the percentage of the workforce in agriculture, forestry and fishing drop from 9.4 per cent to 5 per cent of all those of working age in employment. However, over the same period, and in line with the economic boom in a changing Irish economy the percentage share of the construction industry rose from 7.8 per cent to 13.4 per cent and the percentage share of the financial and other business services rose from 10.4 per cent to 13.4 per cent.

In Northern Ireland, the proportion of workers in the majority of sectors fell although there were marginal increases in the proportion of people employed in construction and in transport, storage and communication. Compared with 1996 a considerably higher proportion of the employed worked in the other service and health sectors in 2006. In 2006, over one quarter of all female employees worked in the health sector.

Figure 5.3 Persons of working age in employment by industry, 1996

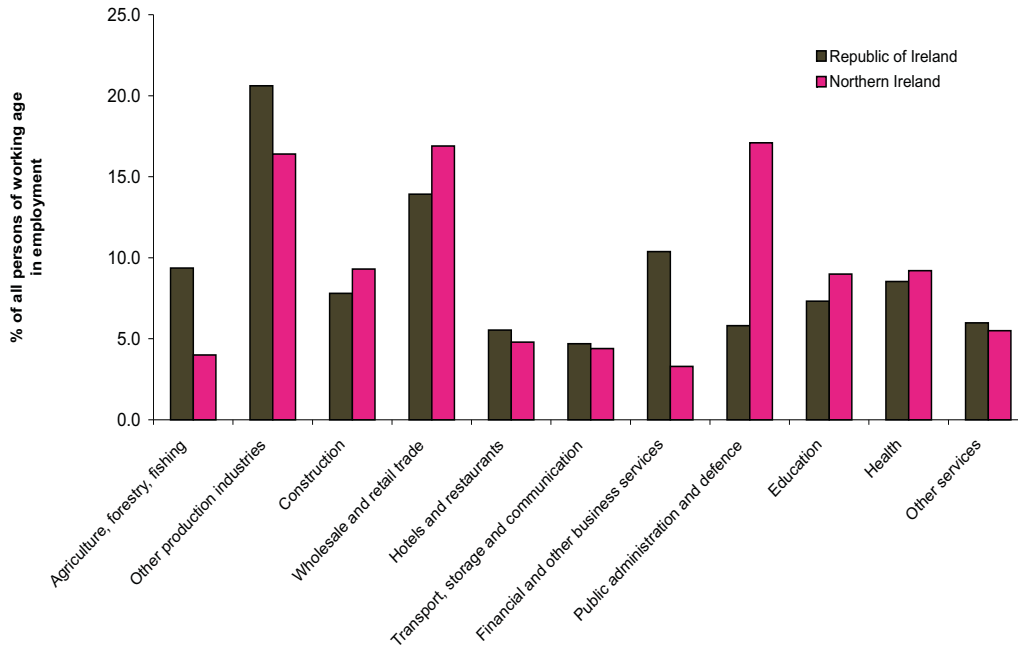
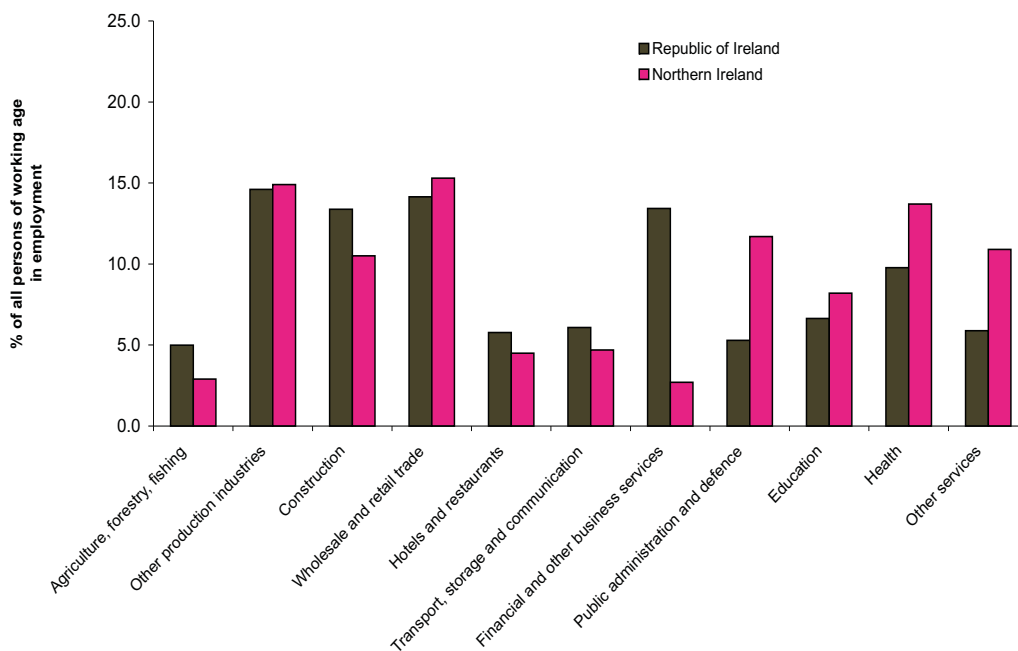


Figure 5.4 Persons of working age in employment by industry, 2006



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Table 5.5 (a) Median gross weekly earnings by industrial sector for all employees (full- and part-time), Republic of Ireland, 2006

Units as indicated

Industrial Sector	Males	Females	Total
Republic of Ireland (€)			
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	.	.	.
Fishing	.	.	.
Mining and quarrying	.	.	.
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying	665.8	489.5	601.5
Electricity, gas and water supply	1081.3	794.8	1021.5
Construction	641.5	437.3	629.3
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	514.0	332.8	421.8
Hotels and restaurants	381.8	268.5	322.5
Transport, storage and communication	729.8	549.3	684.3
Financial intermediation	954.5	633.7	730.7
Real estate, renting and business activities	643.4	441.6	538.8
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	862.0	706.8	774.8
Education	1165.8	729.0	807.5
Health and social work	809.8	554.3	595.0
Other community, social and personal service activities	481.3	285.5	367.5
Private households with employed persons	.	.	.
Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	.	.	.
Total	660.0	479.8	579.0
Of which private sector	610.9	407.2	520.8
Of which public sector	919.5	699.8	772.5

Source Republic of Ireland: National Employment Survey, CSO

Table 5.5 (b) Median gross weekly earnings by industrial sector for all employees (full- and part-time), Northern Ireland, 2006

Units as indicated

Industrial Sector	Males	Females	Total
Northern Ireland (£)			
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	*	*	246.1
Fishing	.	.	.
Mining and quarrying	*	d	*
Manufacturing	391.5	295.1	371.5
Electricity, gas and water supply	*	d	*
Construction	356.7	*	347.5
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	310.2	162.0	231.4
Hotels and restaurants	*	142.9	175.5
Transport, storage and communication	383.8	253.1	360.8
Financial intermediation	469.5	311.6	352.6
Real estate, renting and business activities	393.8	281.0	346.8
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	567.5	310.9	450.8
Education	536.7	316.4	381.3
Health and social work	397.1	285.7	299.8
Other community, social and personal service activities	317.4	201.5	259.7
Private households with employed persons	.	d	d
Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	.	.	.
Total	390.7	260.2	322.7
Of which private sector	365.3	215.4	300.0
Of which public sector	466.0	322.9	373.0

Source Northern Ireland: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, DETI

In the Republic of Ireland, median gross weekly public sector earnings are 48 per cent higher than those in the private sector. In Northern Ireland, median gross weekly public sector earnings are 24 per cent higher than those earned in the private sector.

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Table 5.6 Median gross weekly earnings by occupation for all employees (full and part-time), 2006

Units as indicated

Occupation	Males	Females	Total
Republic of Ireland (€)			
Managers and senior officials	1,000.0	760.5	883.1
Professional occupations	1,079.2	826.5	940.0
Associate professional and technical occupations	819.8	647.3	715.7
Administrative and secretarial occupations	605.8	475.5	505.3
Skilled trade occupations	623.3	400.0	615.8
Personal service occupations	582.5	334.5	422.0
Sales and customer service occupations	470.2	287.5	346.0
Process, plant and machine operatives	590.0	404.8	554.3
Elementary occupations	492.8	240.8	390.8
Total	660.0	479.8	579.0
Northern Ireland (£)			
Managers and senior officials	570.9	414.6	498.3
Professional occupations	586.7	573.0	576.3
Associate professional and technical occupations	536.1	407.3	460.0
Administrative and secretarial occupations	294.2	254.6	263.6
Skilled trade occupations	377.5	210.8	357.5
Personal service occupations	257.7	187.8	198.1
Sales and customer service occupations	218.5	122.4	142.0
Process, plant and machine operatives	343.8	270.7	335.7
Elementary occupations	244.0	121.0	165.0
Total	390.7	260.2	322.7

Sources Republic of Ireland: National Employment Survey, CSO
Northern Ireland: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, DETI

Table 5.7 (a) Median gross hourly earnings by industrial sector for full-time employees, Republic of Ireland, 2006

Units as indicated

Industrial Sector	Males	Females	Total
Republic of Ireland (€)			
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	.	.	.
Fishing	.	.	.
Mining and quarrying	.	.	.
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying	15.9	13.3	15.1
Electricity, gas and water supply	26.6	22.2	26.1
Construction	16.0	13.3	15.9
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	14.2	12.8	13.7
Hotels and restaurants	11.8	10.3	10.9
Transport, storage and communication	17.8	15.7	17.1
Financial intermediation	26.2	19.6	22.0
Real estate, renting and business activities	16.4	13.9	14.9
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	21.4	19.5	20.3
Education	43.5	27.0	30.9
Health and social work	22.1	19.4	19.9
Other community, social and personal service activities	13.8	10.2	12.0
Private households with employed persons	.	.	.
Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	.	.	.
Total	16.9	16.2	16.6

Source Republic of Ireland: National Employment Survey, CSO

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Table 5.7 (b) Median gross hourly earnings by industrial sector for full-time employees, Northern Ireland, 2006

Units as indicated

Industrial Sector	Males	Females	Total
Northern Ireland (£)			
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	6.5	5.8	6.3
Fishing	.	.	.
Mining and quarrying	7.0	d	7.0
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying	9.4	7.9	9.2
Electricity, gas and water supply	*	d	*
Construction	8.9	*	8.8
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	8.5	7.4	8.1
Hotels and restaurants	7.0	5.7	6.2
Transport, storage and communication	9.4	9.1	9.3
Financial intermediation	15.2	10.9	12.2
Real estate, renting and business activities	10.8	9.5	10.3
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	13.5	8.9	12.0
Education	16.8	18.4	17.7
Health and social work	11.2	10.4	10.5
Other community, social and personal service activities	9.9	8.6	9.1
Private households with employed persons	.	d	d
Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	.	.	.
Total	10.1	9.8	10.0

Source Northern Ireland: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, DETI

Table 5.8 Median gross hourly earnings by occupation for full-time employees, 2006

Units as indicated

Occupation	Males	Females	Total
Republic of Ireland (€)			
Managers and senior officials	25.6	22.7	24.4
Professional occupations	29.7	28.0	28.7
Associate professional and technical occupations	21.2	19.0	19.7
Administrative and secretarial occupations	16.0	14.6	15.1
Skilled trade occupations	15.8	11.8	15.5
Personal service occupations	16.0	13.3	14.1
Sales and customer service occupations	13.8	11.5	12.1
Process, plant and machine operatives	14.0	11.1	13.5
Elementary occupations	13.2	11.9	12.9
Total	16.9	16.2	16.6
Northern Ireland (£)			
Managers and senior officials	15.2	11.7	13.9
Professional occupations	16.6	18.4	17.4
Associate professional and technical occupations	13.6	12.7	13.1
Administrative and secretarial occupations	7.8	7.7	7.7
Skilled trade occupations	9.4	6.5	9.1
Personal service occupations	7.6	6.6	6.8
Sales and customer service occupations	6.8	6.2	6.5
Process, plant and machine operatives	8.2	6.8	8.1
Elementary occupations	6.7	6.1	6.5
Total	10.1	9.8	10.0

Sources Republic of Ireland: National Employment Survey, CSO
Northern Ireland: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, DETI

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Table 5.9 Average hours worked per week¹

Year	Hours	
	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
1996	40.9	38.3
2002	37.8	38.1
2003	37.3	37.5
2004	37.2	38.2
2005	37.0	37.8
2006	36.7	37.6

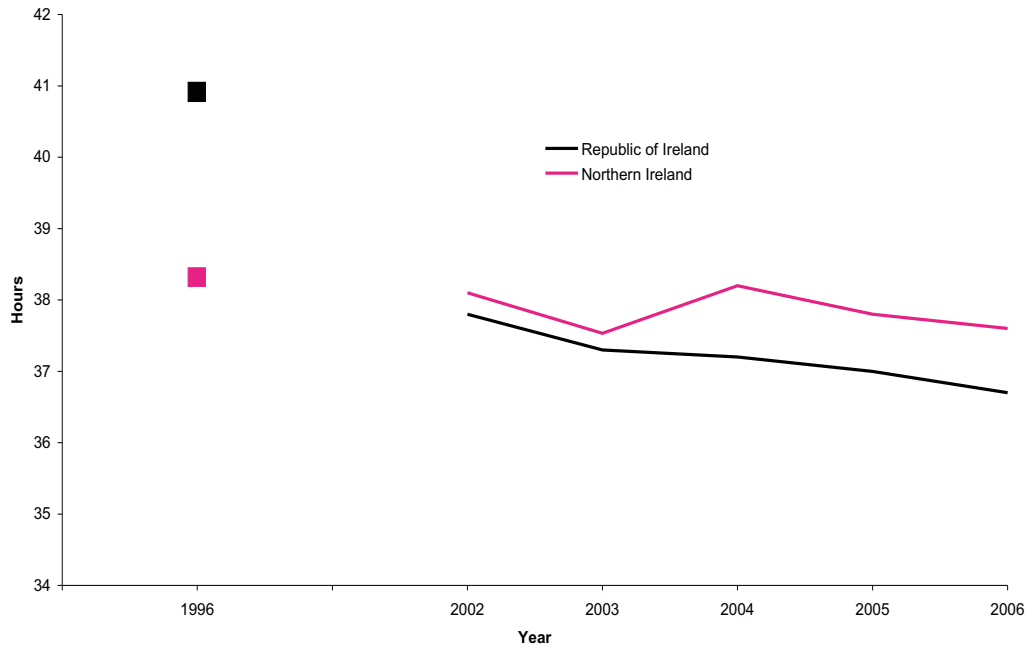
Sources Republic of Ireland: Quarterly National Household Survey, CSO
Northern Ireland: Labour Force Survey, DETI

¹Mean total hours worked in their main job by all persons in employment. It includes employees & self-employed in all industry sectors.

Despite the boom in the economy those in employment in the Republic of Ireland, on average, worked fewer hours in 2006 than in 1996. The average number of hours worked was 4.2 fewer in 2006 and stood at 36.7 hours.

In 1996 those in employment in Northern Ireland worked fewer hours on average per week than their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland. In 2002, this had reversed and those in employment in Northern Ireland worked longer hours on average and this more recent trend has been maintained over the five years 2002 to 2006.

Figure 5.5 Average hours worked per week: 1996; 2002 - 2006



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Table 5.10 (a) Estimates of persons of working-age¹ by nationality and economic status, Republic of Ireland, Spring 2006

Thousands and rates

Economic status	UK or Irish nationals	Non-UK and non-Irish nationals	All nationalities
In labour force	1,898	168	2,066
In employment	1,817	158	1,975
Unemployed	81	11	91
Not in labour force	732	42	774
All persons	2,630	210	2,840
Employment rate %	69.1	75.0	69.5

Source Republic of Ireland: Quarterly National Household Survey, CSO

¹Working age refers to ages 16 to 59 for females and 16 to 64 for males.

Table 5.10 (b) Estimates of persons of working-age¹ by nationality and economic status, Northern Ireland, Spring 2006

Thousands and rates

Economic status	UK or Irish nationals	Non-UK and non-Irish nationals	All nationalities
In labour force	735	24	759
In employment	703	22	725
Unemployed	32	*	34
Not in labour force	291	*	295
All persons	1,026	28	1,054
Employment rate %	68.5	80.2	68.8

Source Northern Ireland: Labour Force Survey, DETI

¹Working age refers to ages 16 to 59 for females and 16 to 64 for males.

Table 5.11 Claimants of welfare benefits associated with unemployment¹

Numbers

Years	Republic of Ireland			Northern Ireland		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1996	175,600	103,600	279,200	64,900	18,900	83,800
1997	155,800	98,500	254,400	49,900	13,500	63,400
1998	135,700	91,400	227,100	44,800	12,600	57,400
1999	111,600	81,600	193,200	39,300	11,400	50,700
2000	88,700	66,700	155,400	32,000	10,100	42,100
2001	83,000	59,300	142,300	30,000	9,500	39,500
2002	96,300	66,200	162,500	27,800	8,600	36,400
2003	100,200	72,200	172,400	26,400	8,200	34,600
2004	96,100	69,900	166,000	23,500	7,400	30,800
2005	92,000	65,100	157,100	21,700	6,900	28,600
2006	92,600	64,800	157,400	20,900	7,000	27,800

Sources Republic of Ireland: Live Register, CSO
 Northern Ireland: Claimant Count, DETI

¹Figures for the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are annual averages.

Table 5.12 Working age persons not in the labour force, Spring 2006

Thousands and percentages

Economic status	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Republic of Ireland						
In labour force (ILO)	1,187	851	2,038	82.7	64.7	74.1
Not in labour force	248	463	711	17.3	35.3	25.9
Reason for not being in labour force: (PES) ¹						
Student	111	132	243	7.8	10.0	8.8
Family/home	4	278	282	0.3	21.2	10.3
Sick/disabled	38	7	45	2.7	0.5	1.6
Retired	58	25	83	4.0	1.9	3.0
Other	37	22	59	2.6	1.7	2.1
Total working age (ILO)	1,435	1,314	2,749	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland						
In labour force	420	339	759	77.5	66.1	72.0
Not in labour force	122	174	295	22.5	33.9	28.0
Reason for not being in labour force: (ILO)						
Student	40	45	86	7.5	8.8	8.1
Family/home	*	75	82	*	14.6	7.8
Sick/disabled	54	45	99	10.0	8.8	9.4
Retired	14	*	16	2.6	*	1.5
Other	*	*	12	*	*	1.1
Total working age	541	513	1,054	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources Republic of Ireland: Quarterly National Household Survey, CSO
Northern Ireland: Labour Force Survey, DETI

¹Principal Economic Status.

The proportion of those not in the labour force because they are students is similar in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. However, in the Republic of Ireland, 10 per cent of those not in the labour force claim that family/home commitments are the reason for not being in the labour force. This is compared with fewer than 8 per cent in Northern Ireland. In the Republic of Ireland, fewer than 2 per cent of those not in the labour force, are not so as a result of sickness or disability compared with a rate of over 9 per cent in Northern Ireland.

Table 5.13 European comparisons of ILO employment and unemployment

Units as indicated

	Latest period	ILO Employment rate (%) unadjusted ¹	Change on year	Latest period	Unemployment rate (%)	Change on year
EU 25	Apr-Jun 06	64.0	0.4	Sep-06	8.0	-0.7
Austria	Apr-Jun 06	70.0	1.6	Sep-06	4.7	-0.5
Belgium	Apr-Jun 06	60.4	-0.6	Sep-06	8.6	0.2
Cyprus	Apr-Jun 06	69.5	0.8	Sep-06	5.0	-0.3
Czech Republic	Apr-Jun 06	65.3	0.6	Sep-06	7.0	-0.8
Denmark	Apr-Jun 06	76.9	1.4	Sep-06	3.5	-1.1
Estonia	Apr-Jun 06	68.8	3.9	Sep-06	4.4	-2.8
Finland	Apr-Jun 06	69.9	0.7	Sep-06	7.9	-0.4
France	Apr-Jun 06	63.0	-0.4	Sep-06	8.9	-1.1
Germany	Apr-Jun 06	67.0	1.7	Sep-06	8.7	-0.7
Greece	Apr-Jun 06	61.0	0.7	2006-Q2	9.0	-0.9
Hungary	Apr-Jun 06	57.3	0.5	Sep-06	7.6	0.3
Republic of Ireland	Apr-Jun 06	68.1	1.0	Sep-06	4.2	-0.2
Italy	Apr-Jun 06	58.9	1.1	2006-Q2	6.8	-0.9
Latvia	Apr-Jun 06	65.5	2.5	Sep-06	6.8	-1.9
Lithuania	Apr-Jun 06	63.7	1.1	Sep-06	6.1	-1.2
Luxembourg	Apr-Jun 06	63.6	0.0	Sep-06	4.9	0.2
Malta	Apr-Jun 06	54.3	0.7	Sep-06	7.5	0.1
Netherlands	Apr-Jun 06	74.2	1.0	Sep-06	4.0	-0.6
Poland	Apr-Jun 06	53.9	1.7	Sep-06	14.1	-3.5
Portugal	Apr-Jun 06	68.1	0.5	Sep-06	7.2	-0.6
Slovak Republic	Apr-Jun 06	59.3	1.9	Sep-06	12.8	-3.5
Slovenia	Apr-Jun 06	67.1	1.1	Sep-06	5.7	-0.9
Spain	Apr-Jun 06	64.7	1.5	Sep-06	7.8	-0.8
Sweden	Apr-Jun 06	73.1	0.5	Mar-05	6.3	0.0
United Kingdom ²	Apr-Jun 06	71.3	-0.2	Jul-06	5.6	1.0
Northern Ireland²	Apr-Jun 06	66.2	0.9	Aug-Oct 06	4.6	0.4

Source Eurostat

¹Employment rates are not seasonally adjusted (except NI and UK rate published by statistical offices).

²Please refer to technical notes.

Technical Notes

Tables 5.1-5.4 (b), 5.7 (a), 5.7 (b), 5.8, 5.10 (a), 5.10 (b) and 5.12

Republic of Ireland

In Labour Force – Economically Active – people aged 16 and over who are either in employment or ILO unemployed.

In Employment – those aged 16 and over who did at least one hour's paid work in the reference week (either as an employee or self-employed); those who had a job from which they were temporarily absent (on holiday for example); those participating in government training and employment programmes; and those working unpaid in family businesses.

ILO Unemployed – the International Labour Organisation defines unemployment as those people without a job who were available to start work in the two weeks following their LFS interview, who had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained. This definition of unemployment is in accordance with that adopted by the 14th International Conference of Labour Statisticians and promulgated by the ILO since 1987.

Not in Labour Force – Economically Inactive – people who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This group includes, for example, all those who were looking after a family/home or who were retired.

Working Age – working age refers to ages 16 to 59 for females and 16 to 64 for males. It should be noted that in regularly published official employment statistics for the Republic of Ireland, working age refers to ages 15 to 64 for both males and females.

ILO Unemployment Rate – the percentage of economically active people who are unemployed on the ILO measure. Figures for the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are seasonally adjusted.

Long-Term Unemployment Rate – the number of persons unemployed for one year or more expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.

Industrial Sector - Industrial Sectors as presented are based on a standard European classification of economic activity (NACE).

Principal Economic Status (PES) - The majority of employment statistics are derived on an ILO basis. This involves categorising a person based on their responses to a number of questions on actual worked hours etc. Respondents are also asked for their own perception of their status. As such a person who classifies themselves as a student but works on a part-time basis will show up as employed on an ILO basis, but a student on a PES basis.

Northern Ireland

In Employment - those who did at least one hour's paid work in the reference week (either as an employee or self-employed); those who had a job from which they were temporarily absent (on holiday for example); those participating in government training and employment programmes; and those working unpaid in family businesses.

ILO Unemployed - the International Labour Organisation defines unemployment as those people without a job who were available to start work in the two weeks following their LFS interview, who had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained. This definition of unemployment is in accordance with that adopted by the 14th International Conference of Labour Statisticians and promulgated by the ILO since 1987.

Not in Labour Force - Economically Inactive - people who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This group includes, for example, all those who are looking after a family/home or who were retired.

Working Age - refers to ages 16-59 for females and 16-64 for males.

Employment Rate (working age) - the number of working age people in employment as percentage of the total population of working age.

Unemployment Rate - the unemployment rate is the percentage of the labour force that are unemployed.

Participation Rate (working age) - the number of people who are in employment or unemployed (economically active) as a percentage of the total population of working age.

Northern Ireland figures have been adjusted to reflect the latest mid-year estimates. The estimates are subject to sampling error.

*denotes estimates below the minimum quotation level of 8,000 cases.

Tables 5.5 (a), 5.6, 5.7 (a) and 5.8

In the Republic of Ireland, earnings represent the gross monthly amount (before deduction of tax, PRSI, superannuation) payable by the organisation to its employees. It includes normal wages, salaries and overtime; taxable allowances, regular bonuses and commissions; holiday or sick pay for the period in question. It excludes employer's PRSI, redundancy payments and back pay.

Average Hourly Earnings - Estimates of average hourly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of the gross monthly earnings by estimates of the total hours paid in the month at the level of the individual employee.

Tables 5.5 (b), 5.6, 5.7 (b) and 5.8

In Northern Ireland, earnings are based on gross pay includes basic pay, overtime pay, shift premium pay, bonus or incentive pay and allowances, and is before deductions for PAYE, National Insurance, pension schemes, voluntary deductions and Income Tax.

In Northern Ireland, industry sectors are defined using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC2003). NI data refers to earnings of adult employees whose rates of pay were unaffected by absence.

Table 5.11

In the Republic of Ireland, the Live Register is compiled from returns made directly to the Central Statistics Office by each local office of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

It comprises persons under 65 years of age in the following categories:

All claimants for Unemployment Benefit (UB) excluding systematic short-time workers.

Applicants for Unemployment Assistance (UA) excluding smallholders/farm assists and self-employed persons.

Other registrants including applicants for credited Social Welfare contributions but excluding those directly involved in an industrial dispute.

NI claimant count unemployment figures are derived from records of claimants held at Social Security offices. The term "claimants" in the claimant count is used to include those who claim Jobseeker's Allowance and National Insurance credits. The figures include severely disabled unemployed, but exclude students seeking vacation work and those whose benefits have been temporarily stopped.

Table 5.13

A NI employment rate comparable to the EUROSTAT figures has been produced from the Calendar Quarter 2 LFS dataset. It is based on the population aged 15-64 and differs from the working age rates (16-64 for men and 16-59 for women) published elsewhere. The employment rate for the UK as published by EUROSTAT will differ from the working age rate (16-59/64) published by ONS for the same reason. Eurostat compiles 'harmonised' unemployment rates for most countries (but not NI and UK) by extrapolating from the most recent LFS data using monthly registered unemployment data.