



**An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh**

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# **Standard SIMS Report: Live Register**



# Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

**Live Register**

This documentation applies to the reporting period:  
**2023**

Last edited: 13/11/2023



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## 2. Introduction

The Live Register is a monthly release, which comprises a count of all persons under 65 years of age who are claiming Jobseekers Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance and Other registrants (e.g. social welfare credits). The Live Register is compiled from administrative returns made to the CSO by the Department of Employment of Social Protection (DSP) for each social welfare office relating to week containing the last Thursday in each calendar month.

## 3. Contact

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## 4. Metadata Update

### 4.1. Metadata last certified

06/11/2023

### 4.2. Metadata last posted

October 2023

### 4.3. Metadata last update

06/11/2023



## 5. Statistical Presentation

### 5.1. Data Description

The live register publication is a monthly release that comprises a count of persons under 65 years of age in the following classes:

- All Claimants for Jobseeker's Benefit (JB) excluding systematic short-time workers
- Applicants for Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) excluding smallholders/farm assists and other self-employed persons
- Other registrants including applicants for credited Social Welfare contributions but excluding those directly involved in an industrial dispute.

The Live Register excludes those claimants on Jobseeker schemes who are 65 years of age and over. There was no change to this exclusion criterion with the removal of the State Pension (Transition) Scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. Persons aged 65 years can remain on a Jobseeker scheme up to their next birthday but are not included in the Live Register.

The information is aggregated and displayed in tabular format for the following classification criteria: Claim Type, Sex, Age, Region, Province, Last Occupation Held, Social Welfare Offices, and Duration.

The Standardised Unemployment Rate (SUR) series, previously in Table 3, has been discontinued from May 2015. It has been replaced by the Monthly Unemployment series, which is published two days before the Live Register.

### 5.2. Classification System

- Sex
- Age groups
- Type of scheme
- Administrative counties

#### Occupations

The occupational classification used is based on the UK Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). "No occupation" is an additional category and includes those who have never worked and those who have no stated occupation.

See background notes in release for more information on categories in each classification used <http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/>

#### Regional Breakdown of Results

The regional classifications in this release is based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. Until Q4 2017, the NUTS3 regions corresponded 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 while the NUTS2 regions, which were proposed by Government and agreed by Eurostat in 1999, were groupings of those historic NUTS3 regions.

However, the NUTS3 boundaries were amended on 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2016 under Regulation (EC) No. 2066/2016 and have come into force from Q1 2018. These new groupings are reflected in the LFS results from Q1 2018 onwards. The changes resulting from the amendment are that County Louth has moved from the Border to the Mid-East and what was formerly South Tipperary has moved from the South-East to the Mid-West, resulting in the new NUTS2 and NUTS3 regions:

- **Northern & Western Region:**
  - **Border:** Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo,
  - **West:** Galway City, Galway County, Mayo and Roscommon
- **Southern Region:**



- **Mid-West:** Clare, Limerick City & County, Tipperary,
- **South-East:** Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford City & County, Wexford,
- South -West: Laois, Cork City, Cork County, Kerry
- **Eastern & Midland Region**
  - **Dublin:** Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin,
  - **Mid-East** Kildare, Meath, Wicklow, Louth,
  - **Midland:** Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath

For further information on NUTS see –

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-BD-04-005-3>

### 5.3. Sector Coverage

All sectors of the economy.

### 5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

#### Jobseeker's Benefit Duration

Prior to 19 January 2004 Jobseeker's Benefit was payable for 15 months (390 days).

From 19 January 2004, Jobseeker's Benefit could be paid for a maximum of 15 months (390 days) to people who had at least 260 paid PRSI contributions. Jobseeker's Benefit could be paid for a maximum of 12 months (312 days) to people who had less than 260 paid contributions (Refers to new claims).

From 15 October 2008, Jobseeker's Benefit could be paid for a maximum of 12 months (312 days) to people who had at least 260 paid PRSI contributions. Jobseeker's Benefit could be paid for a maximum of 9 months (234 days) to people who had less than 260 paid contributions.

As of 3 April 2013, Jobseeker's Benefit can be paid for a maximum of **9 months** (234 days) to people who have 260 paid PRSI contributions. Jobseeker's Benefit can be paid for a maximum of **6 months** (156 days) to people who have less than 260 paid contributions (Refers to new claims).

Claimants getting Jobseeker's Benefit for 6 months or more on 3 April 2013 (or 3 months for people with fewer than 260 contributions) will not be affected.

#### One-Parent Family Payment (OFP)

The One-Parent Family Payment is a social welfare payment for men and women who are younger than 66 and bring up children without the support of a partner and meet certain other criteria. Claimants on this scheme are not counted as part of the Live Register.

From July 2013 new rules came into operation reducing the age limits for the One-Parent Family Payment. This means that some people no longer qualify for the payment and may avail of other schemes or supports. As a consequence, approximately 2,800 people in July 2013, 1,300 people in July 2014 and 2,786 people in July 2015, previously receiving the One-Parent Family Payment, made a claim for Jobseekers Allowance (JA) and will therefore appear on the Live Register.

For information on the age-related changes to the OFP scheme from July 2013, please see the following link to the DEASP website:

[http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/278\\_One-Parent-Family-Payment.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/278_One-Parent-Family-Payment.aspx)



### **Live Register Flows**

Live Register flows are calculated by analysing persons on the Live Register in the reference week of the reference month compared to those on the Live Register in the reference week of the previous month. The flows are calculated as follows:

- Joined Live Register: Persons on the Live Register in the reference week of the current month who were not present on the Live Register in the reference week of the previous month.
- Stayed on Live Register: Persons on the Live Register in the reference week of the current month who were also present on the Live Register in the reference week of the previous month.
- Left Live Register: Persons not on the Live Register in the referenced week of the current month who were present on the Live Register in the reference week of the previous month.

Inflows and outflows published in this release relate to persons moving on or off the Live Register. Inter-scheme movement is not counted as a Live Register flow. For example, if a claimant exhausts his/her entitlement to JB and opens a new JA claim, this is not counted as an outflow in JB and an inflow in JA. The person has moved scheme but has not joined nor left the Live Register. Thus, those persons who move schemes from one month to the next are counted as “Stayed on the Live Register”.

### **Live Register Area Analysis**

served by Local Employment Offices do not correspond to specific geographic boundaries. Therefore, registrants at a given local office do not necessarily come from a particular region or area which can be precisely delineated e.g. data for the Cork City Local Offices of Registration refers to all persons signing on in Cork City but may include persons not resident in Cork City. The basis of the area analysis in Live Register statistics is the DEASP local office of registration. The areas

From January 2018, registrations which have yet not being assigned to a DEASP local office of registration are included in the Live Register totals. Therefore as these registrations are not included in the regional breakdowns, the sum of these regions may not add to the Live Register totals.

### **Casual and part-time workers**

The number of claimants on the Live Register who work on a casual and /or part-time basis is supplied by the DEASP. People who work for part of a week may be eligible for Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance and may also be included on the Live Register, if the DEASP is satisfied that they are not in full-time employment, are available for work and are looking for full-time employment.

### **Nationality**

Data in the nationality grouping table is sourced from information collected by the DEASP on the nationality of claimants when they first sign on the Live Register

## **5.5. Statistical Unit**

The statistical unit is the individual person

## **5.6. Statistical Population**

All persons under 65 years of age who are claiming Jobseekers Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance and Other registrants at local Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) offices in the reference week.

## **5.7. Reference Area**

Republic of Ireland.



## 5.8. Time Coverage

1967-2023

## 5.9. Base period

Not applicable.

## 6. Unit of Measure

Live Register statistics are counts of the number of persons signing on the Live Register each month.

## 7. Reference Period

2023.

## 8. Institutional Mandate

### 8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

Not applicable.

### 8.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable.

## 9. Confidentiality

### 9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.

These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>

### 9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

All data are treated as strictly confidential in accordance with Part V of the Statistics Act 1993.

## 10. Release Policy

### 10.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.



## 10.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie), or directly from this link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasescalendar/>

## 10.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at <https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/>

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website ([www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

## 11. Frequency of Dissemination

Monthly.

## 12. Accessibility and clarity

### 12.1. News release

Please follow this link to see the most recent press release associated with the Live Register release: <https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/pressreleases/2022pressreleases/presstatementliveregisteraugust2022/>

### 12.2. Publications

The most recent monthly release can be found in the CSO website via the following link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/liveregister/>

### 12.3. On-line database

Live Register tables are available on the CSO dissemination database PxStat. They can be accessed directly from the following link: <https://data.cso.ie/product/lr>

#### 12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations

The total number of consultations to the Live Register release for the period January 1 2021 to November 2 2021 was 3192 hits, out of which 1422 were unique hits.

### 12.4. Micro-data Access

As claimant count microdata is retrospectively available to January 2012, previously published Live Register data for this period have been revised with data now also produced from this claimant count microdata.



## 12.5. Other

Not applicable.

### 12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

## 12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Further information on the Methodology used to compile the Live Register release can be found in the CSO's methods page for the release, directly from this link:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/labourmarket/liveregister/>

### 12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

## 12.7. Quality Documentation

For more information and documentation on the quality associated with this release please refer to the CSO's methods page: <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/labourmarket/liveregister/>

# 13. Quality Management

## 13.1. Quality Assurance

### Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCOP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

## 13.2. Quality Assessment

The CSO conducts self-assessment reviews on all their published processes on an annual basis. The last iteration of this review showed that the Live Register statistics disseminated cover a comprehensive set of requirements and the processes and outputs are adequate.

# 14. Relevance

## 14.1. User Needs

The release is widely used by government departments and the public.

### 14.1.1. Main National Users

Any users with an interest in labour market statistics - including government, national and local media, research institutions, community organisations etc.

### 14.1.2. Principal External Users

International institutions.



## 14.2. User Satisfaction

No user satisfaction survey has been conducted.

## 14.3. Data Completeness

The information disseminated covers a comprehensive set of user needs and as such is deemed to be as complete as possible.

### 14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

Not calculated.

## 15. Accuracy and reliability

### 15.1. Overall accuracy

As the data is received from up-to-date administrative sources, we have no major concerns about the accuracy and reliability of the statistics produced for the Live Register. We could potentially improve on these, but it is not clear that the improvements would outweigh the disruption of changing production methods.

### 15.2. Sampling Error

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source. All local offices are included in the overall count (i.e., census of local offices).

#### 15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Not applicable.

### 15.3. Non-sampling Error

Not applicable.

#### 15.3.1. Coverage error

Not applicable.

##### 15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not applicable.

##### 15.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion

Not calculated.

#### 15.3.2. Measurement error

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source.

#### 15.3.3. Non-Response Error

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source.



#### **15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate**

Not applicable.

#### **15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate**

Not applicable.

#### **15.3.4. Processing error**

Processing errors are at a minimum, as data correspond with data collected at local office level and it is taken at face value.

#### **15.3.5. Model assumption error**

Not Applicable – Live Register involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source.

## **16. Timeliness and punctuality**

### **16.1. Timeliness**

The main release which consists of State level information is published T+5 days after the reference period (i.e. the week of the last Thursday of each month) which is within the publication schedule timelines.

Additional data tables (county and local office data) are also published on the CSO Database (PxStat) at this time.

#### **16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results**

Not applicable

#### **16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results**

5 days.

### **16.2. Punctuality**

The output is always disseminated in accordance with the date specified in the CSO's advance release calendar.

#### **16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication**

0 days. The publication at national level is always within the release calendar schedule.

## **17. Comparability**

The Live Register is a stand- alone set of figures and does not take into account changes in the labour force.

### **17.1. Comparability – Geographical**

Not applicable.

#### **17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics**

Not applicable



## 17.2. Comparability over time

Live register statistics are available in Ireland since January 1967 with no breaks in the time series.

### 17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

55 Years.

## 17.3. Coherence – cross domain

Live Register results are taken as a short-term indicator of labour market activity. As such the main source of similar information is the official estimate of monthly unemployment as published in the Monthly Unemployment estimates. However, the Live Register is an administrative count of claimants and is not designed to measure unemployment directly. Therefore, while trends between official unemployment figures are analysed and trends are broadly similar full coherence in terms of total number of persons unemployed is not expected.

A note is included on the Live Register each month stating that the Live Register is not the official measure of unemployment to make this difference transparent to users.

### 17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

### 17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable.

## 17.4. Coherence – internal

Not applicable.

## 18. Cost and Burden

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/enterprisestatistics/responseburdenbarometer/>

Survey specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat. <https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB>

## 19. Data Revision

### 19.1. Data Revision Policy

Published statistics are subject to correction and revision for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons include the receipt of additional information (for example, late survey responses) and updated seasonal factors. Occasional revisions also occur as a result of changes to definitions, methodology, classifications and general updating of statistical series.

It is recognised internationally that the existence of a sound revisions policy maintains credibility in official statistics. The CSO General Revisions Policy, which details how revisions should be managed and communicated to users, outlines the three main types of revisions:

- Planned Routine Revisions
- Planned Major Revisions



- **Unplanned Revisions.**

One reason for unplanned revisions occurring can be when errors are detected after publication. The 'CSO Error Correction Policy – How to deal with Publication Errors' outlines the steps taken when these errors are detected. As required under Principle 6.3 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, errors detected in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and users are informed. An important step in the process is the documentation and analysis of errors that have occurred and their causes. This allows the CSO to take measures preventing similar errors from occurring in the future and uniformity in dealing with them when they do.

The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link:  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/>

## **19.2. Data Revision Practice**

In general, Live Register data are not revised. But in October 2009 a comprehensive twelve-month revision back to October 2008 was carried out based on new compilation methods employed by the Department of Social Protection (DSP). Specifically, these changes allowed the identification of a small number of individuals who should not previously have been included in the Live Register count but could not have been separately identified and excluded under previous arrangements.

Beginning with January 2017, the Live Register monthly release will be produced using claimant microdata from the Department of Social Protection's (DSP) Integrated Short Term Scheme (ISTS) database, whereas prior to January 2017, the Live Register was produced from tabulated claimant counts provided directly to the CSO by the DSP. This new approach will continue to support the production of current Live Register data while it will also facilitate additional future analyses being undertaken by CSO. As claimant count microdata is retrospectively available to January 2012, previously published Live Register data for this period have been revised with data now also produced from this claimant count microdata.

These revisions are generally minor in nature and all relevant data have been updated and issued with the 2nd, production of the Live register publication for reference month January 2017 on February 2017.

### **19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size**

Not calculated.

## **20. Statistical processing**

### **20.1. Source Data**

The Live Register is compiled from returns made for each local office to the Central Statistics Office by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP). The initial data source is the local office where registrants sign on.

#### **20.1.1. Population and sampling frame**

The population of interest is all persons under 65 years of age who are claiming Jobseekers Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance and Other registrants (e.g. social welfare credits) at local DSP offices. As individuals must sign on to receive payments or credits, the Live Register provides a full count of the population of interest each month.

The frame for collection of the administrative data are all the local DSP offices.



### **20.1.2. Sampling design**

It is a full census of Department of Social Protection (DSP) local offices in the State

### **20.1.3. Survey size**

Not applicable.

### **20.1.4. Survey technique**

Information is entered in each local office for every registrant. Department of Social Protection (DSP) electronically transmits data to the CSO.

## **20.2. Frequency of data collection**

Monthly.

## **20.3. Data Collection**

Data vis entered in each local office for every registrant.

### **20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process**

Administrative data process.

### **20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)**

No CSO questionnaire is used.

### **20.3.3. Survey Participation**

It is agreed that the Department of Social Protection (DSP) supply CSO with data on a monthly basis. The CSO has no interaction directly with either the local offices or the persons, actually signing on to the Live Register.

### **20.3.4. Data Capture**

Claimant microdata is provided form the Department of Social Protection's Integrated Short-Term Scheme (ISTS) database

## **20.4. Data Validation**

Data are checked against previous month/reference period and macro level edits are used to check sub-totals. Actual amendments/corrections are rarely undertaken.

## **20.5. Data Compilation**

Compilation is from administrative data.

### **20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)**

The Live Register publication is generated from administrative data and no imputation is carried out.

#### **20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate**

Not applicable.



### **20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting**

Not applicable.

## **20.6. Adjustment**

### **20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment**

Since January 2011 the seasonal adjustment of the Live Register is completed by applying the X-12-ARIMA model, developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. Seasonal adjustment is conducted using the indirect approach, where each individual series is independently adjusted (male under 25 years, female under 25 years, male 25 years and over and female 25 years and over). To preserve consistency between the individual and aggregate series, the series for gender, age group and total Live Register are then created from these four component series.

The X-12 ARIMA method has the X-11 moving averages process at its core, but builds on this by providing options for pre-treating the series using a regARIMA approach for prior adjustment and series extension. In essence this methodology will estimate seasonal factors while taking account of temporary changes, outliers, level shifts and calendar effects (e.g timing of Easter).

All Live Register series are updated monthly with the latest three years of seasonally adjusted data as part of the concurrent approach. The comprehensive annual review contains revisions to the entire series. Revisions to the series are typically very minor in scale.

For additional information on the use of X-12-ARIMA see detailed note in the January 2011 Live Register release.

## **21. Comment**