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Central
Statistics
Office

Standard SIMS Report: Monthly Unemployment



Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

Monthly Unemployment

This documentation applies to the reporting period:
2024

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2. Introduction

The Monthly Unemployment release provides a detailed series of monthly unemployment estimates.

3. Contact

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4. Metadata Update

4.1. Metadata last certified

29 April 2024

4.2. Metadata last posted

March 2024

4.3. Metadata last update

29 April 2024



Statistical Presentation

4.4. Data Description

The release provides monthly unemployment estimates. While the CSO has historically produced a seasonally adjusted Standardised Unemployment Rate (SUR) which was published in the Live Register monthly release, the CSO believed that the inclusion of this SUR estimate in the Live Register release led to confusion for users as the Live Register is not a measure of unemployment.

The Monthly Unemployment replaces the seasonally adjusted Standardised Unemployment Rate (SUR) as the definitive measure of monthly unemployment.

The release contains both monthly unemployment rates and monthly unemployment volumes.

A total of 8 series are produced from the Proportional Denton method:

- Unemployed Males Aged 15-24
- Unemployed Females Aged 15-24
- Unemployed Males Aged 25-74
- Unemployed Females Aged 25-74
- Employed Males Aged 15-24
- Employed Females Aged 15-24
- Employed Males Aged 25-74
- Employed Females Aged 25-74

Each of the 8 series is then seasonally adjusted (to remove the effects of seasonality in the series). The individual seasonally adjusted unemployment volumes are included in the release while unemployment rates are also generated from the various series.

4.5. Classification System

Sex (Male, Female, All)

Broad Age Group (15-24, 25-74, 15-74)

4.6. Sector Coverage

All sectors of the economy.

4.7. Statistical Concepts and definitions

4.8. Statistical Unit

The statistical unit is the individual person.

4.9. Statistical Population

All private households and their current members residing in the state at the time of data collection.

4.10. Reference Area

State



4.11. Time Coverage

1998 - 2024

4.12. Base period

Not applicable.

5. Unit of Measure

Units of Observation: Persons classified according to ILO (International Labour Organisation) Status from the LFS and Persons classified as being counted on the Live Register recipient series

Units of Collection: Inputs from LFS and Live Register

Units of Presentation: Unemployment volumes and rates by Sex and Broad Age Group

6. Reference Period

2024.

7. Institutional Mandate

7.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

Not applicable.

7.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable

8. Confidentiality

8.1. 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/lqdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>

8.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

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



9. Release Policy

9.1. 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.

9.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, www.cso.ie, or directly from this link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/>

9.3. 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). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

10. Frequency of Dissemination

Monthly

11. Accessibility and clarity

11.1. News release

Not applicable.

11.2. Publications

Monthly Unemployment estimates are disseminated on the Wednesday following the last week of the reference month where this last week is generally defined as being the last week of the month which contains a Thursday. Adjustments are made to the release schedule where the week scheduled for release contains a Public Holiday.

All related publications can be found at: <http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/>

11.3. On-line database

The data contained in the release can be accessed in tabular format via the CSO's dissemination database PxStat directly from this link: <https://data.cso.ie/product/mue>



11.3.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations

Not calculated.

11.4. Micro-data Access

Not applicable.

11.5. Other

Eurostat issue releases which use the monthly unemployment data and the central repository for such data can be found from this link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/labour-market/publications>

11.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not applicable.

11.6. Documentation on Methodology

Further documentation on the methodology used to compile this publication can be found in the CSO via the following links:

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

11.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

11.7. Quality Documentation

For more information on the quality of this publication please consult the CSO's Methods page at

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/qualityreports/monthlyunemployment/>

12. Quality Management

12.1. 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.

12.2. Quality Assessment

The CSO requires that all produced outputs carry out an annual self-assessment exercise to evaluate the quality of the processes in place to generate disseminated outputs and the products themselves. The latest iteration of this exercise showed that the processes currently used are adequate and the outputs produced meet user requirements.



13. Relevance

13.1. User Needs

Wide usage across government departments and general public.

13.1.1. Main National Users

- Government departments (Department of the Taoiseach, Department of Finance, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Department of Social Protection, Department of Education etc)
- SOLAS – National Skills Training Agency
- Other research centres and universities involved in labour market research
- National media

13.1.2. Principal External Users

European Union/Eurostat

13.2. User Satisfaction

Not measured.

13.3. Data Completeness

Not applicable.

13.3.1. Data Completeness rate

Not applicable.

14. Accuracy and reliability

14.1. Overall accuracy

Benchmark data is sourced from the LFS which is a sample survey. Information regarding the sampling effect and representativeness of the LFS is presented separately in the Standard Report for the LFS.

Live Register: Fully representative administrative data source.

14.2. Sampling Error

Not applicable

14.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Not applicable.

14.3. Non-sampling Error

Not applicable.

14.3.1. Coverage error

Not applicable.



14.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not applicable.

14.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion

Not applicable.

14.3.2. Measurement error

LFS: Benchmark data is sourced from the LFS which is a sample survey. Information regarding measurement errors in the LFS is presented separately in the Standard Report for the LFS.
Live Register: Fully representative administrative data source.

14.3.3. Non-Response Error

Not applicable.

14.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate

Not applicable.

14.3.3.2. Item non-response rate

Not applicable.

14.3.4. Processing error

Processing errors are at a minimum as much of the data is imported from existing datasets and automation is used extensively.

14.3.5. Model assumption error

Time series forecasting is used to present results for which no LFS benchmark figures are yet available. This can lead to revisions where the model is subsequently updated with benchmark figures.

15. Timeliness and punctuality

15.1. Timeliness

Monthly Unemployment estimates are issued on the Tuesday following the last week of the reference month where this last week is generally defined as being the last week of the month which contains a Thursday. Adjustments are made to the release schedule where the week scheduled for release contains a Public Holiday.

The indicators which are published in the release are seasonally adjusted unemployment data (volume and rate) classified by sex and age group.

15.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

No provisional outputs are published.

15.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

+7 days max.



15.2. Punctuality

The Monthly Unemployment statistics are disseminated on the date specified in the CSO's advanced release calendar

15.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

0 days.

16. Comparability

16.1. Comparability – Geographical

Not applicable.

16.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not applicable.

16.2. Comparability over time

Monthly unemployment statistics are available from the CSO website from January 1998 without breaks in the time series.

16.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

26 years.

16.3. Coherence – cross domain

To ensure comparability with other official statistics, standard classifications are used for monthly unemployment estimates. The age groups 15-24 years, 25-74 years and 15-74 years are comparable to the Eurostat age group classification.

16.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

16.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable.

16.4. Coherence – internal

Not applicable.

17. 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>



18. Data Revision

18.1. 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/>

18.2. Data Revision Practice

The seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment series is subject to revision caused by updates to the seasonally adjusted series whenever new monthly data are added. In addition, larger revisions can occur when the most recent Labour Force Survey (LFS) benchmarks are included. From October 2019 and on a quarterly basis afterwards, the CSO will be using the latest available quarterly LFS benchmarks, ahead of the LFS publication date. This eliminates the need to revise the Monthly Unemployment series when publishing the quarterly LFS.

18.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not calculated.

19. Statistical processing

19.1. Source Data

Monthly Unemployment statistics use both the LFS (Labour Force Survey) statistical survey and Live Register administrative data.

19.1.1. Population and sampling frame

All private households and their current members residing in the state at the time of data collection.

19.1.2. Sampling design

Not applicable.

19.1.3. Survey size

Not applicable.



19.1.4. Survey technique

Not applicable.

19.2. Frequency of data collection

Monthly.

19.3. Data Collection

Monthly Unemployment statistics use both the LFS (Labour Force Survey) statistical survey and Live Register administrative data.

19.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

Mixed mode, combining administrative data with LFS survey data used for benchmarking.

19.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not applicable.

19.3.3. Survey Participation

Not applicable.

19.3.4. Data Capture

Not applicable

19.4. Data Validation

Not applicable.

19.5. Data Compilation

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides benchmark estimates of employment and unemployment for each quarter since the beginning of 1998. These quarterly benchmark estimates are then used to compile monthly data using the Proportional Denton method. The main characteristic of this method is that the monthly Live Register recipient series is used as an indicator to disaggregate the quarterly LFS unemployment series into a monthly series in such a way as to minimise the differences between two consecutive months. It also ensures that the average of three months in a particular calendar quarter is equal to the corresponding LFS estimate.

For months where the quarterly unemployment data is not yet available, the ratio of the LFS monthly estimate to the Live Register recipients monthly estimate (i.e. the benchmark to indicator ratio) is forecast forward in order to extrapolate a monthly LFS estimate. The monthly series is revised each quarter when the latest quarterly data becomes available. This approach adheres to agreed international practice.

The methodology for the employment series is slightly different from the one used for unemployment, as there is no register-based figure available for employment (i.e. no indicator variable). The Denton method can still be used to disaggregate the quarterly employment level into a monthly level, but the constraint of proportionality to the register-based series is ignored. The constraints instead are to minimise the differences between months and to ensure that the average of the monthly levels is equal to the quarterly level.



19.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Not applicable.

19.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not calculated.

19.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Not applicable.

19.6. Adjustment

19.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

To correct for typical seasonal patterns, the data series included have been concurrently seasonally adjusted. This seasonal adjustment is completed by applying the X-12-ARIMA model, developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. In the case of these monthly unemployment estimates, seasonal adjustment is conducted using the indirect approach, where each individual series is independently adjusted. To preserve consistency between the individual and aggregate series, the series for gender, age group and total monthly unemployed are then created from these component series. The series for monthly unemployment rates are likewise created from these component series.

The monthly unemployment estimate is a seasonally adjusted series and subject to revision monthly. Therefore, the series is not included in any long-term CSO publications i.e. Men and Women in Ireland, Measuring Ireland's Progress, the CSO Yearbook etc.

20. Comment