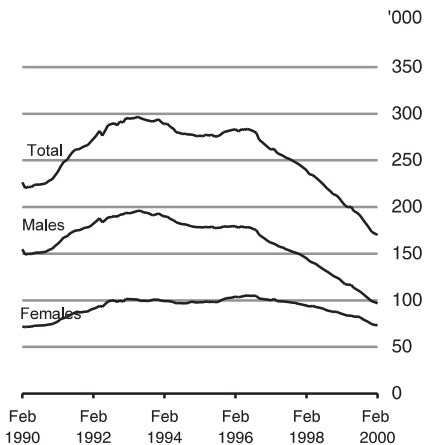




Live Register Statement February 2000

Live Register
Seasonally Adjusted



	Live Register Total	Seasonally Adjusted
February 1999	207,611	205,500
January 2000	176,162	171,700
February 2000	172,093	170,100
Change in month	-4,069	-1,600
Change in year	-35,518	-35,400

Fall of 4,069 in February

The Live Register fell by 4,069 in February to 172,093. When seasonal factors are taken into account, the Register fell by 1,600 in the month to 170,100. This is the lowest seasonally adjusted figure since October 1982 (169,500).

In the year to February 2000 the Live Register decreased by 35,518 persons.

Other features include:

- ◆ Over 80% of the monthly decrease was for males, and the majority of these were aged 25 years or over. *See Tables 1a, 1b and 1c.*
- ◆ The number of UA applicants fell by 3,581 last month, accounting for 88% of the overall decrease. *See Table 1a.*
- ◆ In the year to February 2000 the numbers signing on have fallen in all regions. The largest fall was in Dublin (-13,497). *See Table 2.*
- ◆ The standardised unemployment rate for February was 4.9%. This compares with a rate of 5.7% in April 1999 based on the Quarterly National Household Survey. *See Table 8 and Background Notes.*

The Live Register is not designed to measure unemployment. It includes part-time workers (those who work up to three days a week), seasonal and casual workers entitled to Unemployment Assistance or Benefit. Unemployment is measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey and the latest figure, for June–August 1999, is 101,100 persons unemployed.

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Table 1a Total persons on the Live Register

Category	February 1999	January 2000	February 2000	Monthly change	Annual change
Males					
UB Claims	31,491	29,332	28,543	- 789	- 2,948
UA Applications	87,867	70,183	67,756	- 2,427	- 20,111
Other Registrants	3,225	2,867	2,815	- 52	- 410
Total	122,583	102,382	99,114	- 3,268	- 23,469
Females					
UB Claims	37,389	34,352	34,981	+ 629	- 2,408
UA Applications	35,555	28,193	27,039	- 1,154	- 8,516
Other Registrants	12,084	11,235	10,959	- 276	- 1,125
Total	85,028	73,780	72,979	- 801	- 12,049
All Persons					
UB Claims	68,880	63,684	63,524	- 160	- 5,356
UA Applications	123,422	98,376	94,795	- 3,581	- 28,627
Other Registrants	15,309	14,102	13,774	- 328	- 1,535
Total	207,611	176,162	172,093	- 4,069	- 35,518

Table 1b Persons under 25 years of age on the Live Register

Category	February 1999	January 2000	February 2000	Monthly change	Annual change
Males					
UB Claims	5,706	4,711	4,508	- 203	- 1,198
UA Applications	17,211	12,206	11,664	- 542	- 5,547
Other Registrants	55	38	37	- 1	- 18
Total	22,972	16,955	16,209	- 746	- 6,763
Females					
UB Claims	4,516	3,688	3,814	+ 126	- 702
UA Applications	12,392	9,138	8,709	- 429	- 3,683
Other Registrants	215	166	151	- 15	- 64
Total	17,123	12,992	12,674	- 318	- 4,449
All Persons					
UB Claims	10,222	8,399	8,322	- 77	- 1,900
UA Applications	29,603	21,344	20,373	- 971	- 9,230
Other Registrants	270	204	188	- 16	- 82
Total	40,095	29,947	28,883	- 1,064	- 11,212

Table 1c Persons 25 years of age and over on the Live Register

Category	February 1999	January 2000	February 2000	Monthly change	Annual change
Males					
UB Claims	25,785	24,621	24,035	- 586	- 1,750
UA Applications	70,656	57,977	56,092	- 1,885	- 14,564
Other Registrants	3,170	2,829	2,778	- 51	- 392
Total	99,611	85,427	82,905	- 2,522	- 16,706
Females					
UB Claims	32,873	30,664	31,167	+ 503	- 1,706
UA Applications	23,163	19,055	18,330	- 725	- 4,833
Other Registrants	11,869	11,069	10,808	- 261	- 1,061
Total	67,905	60,788	60,305	- 483	- 7,600
All Persons					
UB Claims	58,658	55,285	55,202	- 83	- 3,456
UA Applications	93,819	77,032	74,422	- 2,610	- 19,397
Other Registrants	15,039	13,898	13,586	- 312	- 1,453
Total	167,516	146,215	143,210	- 3,005	- 24,306

Table 2 Persons on the Live Register by Region

NUTS2 and NUTS3 Regions ¹	February 1999	January 2000	February 2000	Monthly change	Annual change
Males					
Border, Midland & Western	38,030	33,548	32,690	- 858	- 5,340
Border	18,610	16,404	15,967	- 437	- 2,643
Midland	6,521	5,755	5,603	- 152	- 918
West	12,899	11,389	11,120	- 269	- 1,779
Eastern & Southern	84,553	68,834	66,424	- 2,410	- 18,129
Dublin	35,639	27,576	26,938	- 638	- 8,701
Mid-East	8,374	6,629	6,299	- 330	- 2,075
Mid-West	8,821	7,739	7,482	- 257	- 1,339
South-East	14,450	12,582	12,005	- 577	- 2,445
South-West	17,269	14,308	13,700	- 608	- 3,569
Total	122,583	102,382	99,114	- 3,268	- 23,469
Females					
Border, Midland & Western	25,579	23,733	23,311	- 422	- 2,268
Border	11,943	11,277	11,201	- 76	- 742
Midland	4,874	4,592	4,528	- 64	- 346
West	8,762	7,864	7,582	- 282	- 1,180
Eastern & Southern	59,449	50,047	49,668	- 379	- 9,781
Dublin	22,214	17,512	17,418	- 94	- 4,796
Mid-East	6,544	5,320	5,296	- 24	- 1,248
Mid-West	6,808	5,951	5,956	+ 5	- 852
South-East	10,866	10,169	10,052	- 117	- 814
South-West	13,017	11,095	10,946	- 149	- 2,071
Total	85,028	73,780	72,979	- 801	- 12,049
All Persons					
Border, Midland & Western	63,609	57,281	56,001	- 1,280	- 7,608
Border	30,553	27,681	27,168	- 513	- 3,385
Midland	11,395	10,347	10,131	- 216	- 1,264
West	21,661	19,253	18,702	- 551	- 2,959
Eastern & Southern	144,002	118,881	116,092	- 2,789	- 27,910
Dublin	57,853	45,088	44,356	- 732	- 13,497
Mid-East	14,918	11,949	11,595	- 354	- 3,323
Mid-West	15,629	13,690	13,438	- 252	- 2,191
South-East	25,316	22,751	22,057	- 694	- 3,259
South-West	30,286	25,403	24,646	- 757	- 5,640
Total	207,611	176,162	172,093	- 4,069	- 35,518

¹ The composition of the regions is described in the Live Register Area Analysis release

Table 3 Persons on the Live Register classified by Province

Provinces	February 1999	January 2000	February 2000	Monthly change	Annual change
Provinces					
Leinster	106,313	86,631	84,875	- 1,756	- 21,438
Munster	57,465	49,695	48,400	- 1,295	- 9,065
Connacht	26,376	23,375	22,723	- 652	- 3,653
Ulster	17,457	16,461	16,095	- 366	- 1,362
Total	207,611	176,162	172,093	- 4,069	- 35,518

Table 4a Total persons on the Live Register - Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted

Year	Month	Unadjusted Series			Seasonally Adjusted Series ¹		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1999	January	127,200	86,800	214,000	123,100	86,400	209,500
	February	122,600	85,000	207,600	120,200	85,300	205,500
	March	118,200	83,000	201,200	117,200	84,400	201,600
	April	115,800	80,800	196,500	116,500	83,300	199,800
	May	112,700	79,500	192,200	116,500	83,800	200,300
	June	111,900	83,700	195,500	113,100	82,400	195,600
	July	112,600	88,000	200,600	111,400	82,800	194,100
	August	111,200	87,400	198,700	109,300	81,900	191,200
	September	106,400	79,800	186,200	106,900	79,700	186,600
	October	101,300	76,700	177,900	104,300	78,300	182,600
	November	98,700	73,100	171,800	102,000	76,600	178,600
	December	101,000	75,500	176,500	98,900	74,400	173,400
2000	January	102,400	73,800	176,200	98,300	73,400	171,700
	February	99,100	73,000	172,100	96,800	73,300	170,100

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 1999 (See Background Notes).

Table 4b Persons under 25 years of age on the Live Register - Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted

Year	Month	Unadjusted Series			Seasonally Adjusted Series ¹		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1999	January	24,000	17,900	41,900	23,000	17,600	40,600
	February	23,000	17,100	40,100	22,400	17,200	39,600
	March	21,700	16,300	38,000	21,800	17,000	38,800
	April	20,900	15,600	36,500	21,400	16,600	37,900
	May	19,900	15,300	35,200	21,600	16,900	38,400
	June	20,200	16,600	36,900	19,900	15,700	35,600
	July	20,400	17,200	37,600	19,200	15,300	34,500
	August	20,000	17,000	37,100	18,700	15,100	33,700
	September	18,600	15,400	34,000	18,200	14,700	32,900
	October	16,500	13,800	30,300	17,600	14,400	32,100
	November	15,800	12,900	28,700	17,200	14,100	31,300
	December	15,900	12,700	28,600	16,100	13,200	29,400
2000	January	17,000	13,000	29,900	16,000	12,700	28,700
	February	16,200	12,700	28,900	15,600	12,800	28,500

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 1999 (See Background Notes).

Table 4c Persons 25 years of age or over on the Live Register - Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted

Year	Month	Unadjusted Series			Seasonally Adjusted Series ¹		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1999	January	103,200	69,000	172,100	100,100	68,800	168,900
	February	99,600	67,900	167,500	97,800	68,000	165,800
	March	96,600	66,700	163,300	95,400	67,400	162,800
	April	94,800	65,200	160,100	95,200	66,700	161,900
	May	92,800	64,200	157,100	95,000	66,900	161,900
	June	91,600	67,000	158,700	93,300	66,700	160,000
	July	92,200	70,700	162,900	92,200	67,400	159,600
	August	91,200	70,400	161,600	90,700	66,800	157,500
	September	87,900	64,300	152,200	88,700	65,000	153,700
	October	84,700	62,900	147,600	86,700	63,800	150,500
	November	82,900	60,200	143,000	84,800	62,500	147,300
	December	85,100	62,800	147,900	82,800	61,200	144,000
2000	January	85,400	60,800	146,200	82,400	60,600	143,000
	February	82,900	60,300	143,200	81,200	60,500	141,600

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 1999 (See Background Notes).

Table 5 Persons working on systematic short-time basis excluded from the Live Register

	Month	Males	Females	Total
1999	January	1,250	2,961	4,211
	February	1,232	2,994	4,226
	March	1,146	2,878	4,024
	April	1,091	2,647	3,738
	May	1,150	2,690	3,840
	June	1,097	2,505	3,602
	July	1,105	2,368	3,473
	August	973	2,291	3,264
	September	1,030	2,353	3,383
	October	987	2,515	3,502
	November	968	2,324	3,292
	December	916	2,235	3,151
2000	January	948	2,197	3,145
	February	954	2,247	3,201

Table 6 Smallholders and Self-Employed Persons applying for Unemployment Assistance and Other Registrants excluded from the Live Register

	Month	Smallholders ¹	Self-Employed	Others	Total
1999	January	6,616	2,545	741	9,902
	February	6,672	2,541	718	9,931
	March	6,636	2,499	718	9,853
	April	7,138	2,396	737	10,271
	May	7,534	2,357	748	10,639
	June	8,282	2,270	792	11,344
	July	8,438	2,274	872	11,584
	August	8,473	2,225	866	11,564
	September	8,418	2,184	858	11,460
	October	8,442	2,128	754	11,324
	November	8,257	2,129	739	11,125
	December	8,446	2,122	789	11,357
2000	January	8,456	2,102	771	11,329
	February	8,332	2,049	754	11,135

¹Including Farm Assist Scheme introduced in April 1999.

Table 7 Persons Under 65 Years, other than Smallholders, on the Pre-Retirement Allowance Scheme (PRETA) or on the Pre-Retirement Credits Scheme (PRECS), excluded from the Live Register

	Month	PRETA	PRECS	Total	Males	Females
1999	January	11,995	7,084	19,079	14,271	4,808
	February	11,674	7,167	18,841	14,072	4,769
	March	11,635	7,200	18,835	14,061	4,774
	April	11,734	7,226	18,960	14,163	4,797
	May	11,601	7,230	18,831	13,992	4,839
	June	11,589	7,200	18,789	13,951	4,838
	July	11,648	7,186	18,834	13,976	4,858
	August	11,617	7,173	18,790	13,931	4,859
	September	11,564	7,231	18,795	13,930	4,865
	October	11,530	7,228	18,758	13,879	4,879
	November	11,565	7,242	18,807	13,876	4,931
	December	11,581	7,331	18,912	13,934	4,978
2000	January	11,548	7,347	18,895	13,943	4,952
	February	11,608	7,461	19,069	14,033	5,036

Table 8 Seasonally Adjusted Standardised Unemployment Rates¹

Month	1996 ³	1997 ³	1998	1999 ⁴	2000
	%	%	%	%	%
January	12.0	10.7	8.4	6.2	4.9
February	12.0	10.6	8.2	6.0	4.9
March	11.8	10.5	8.0	5.9	
April ²	11.9	10.3	7.8	5.7	
May	11.8	10.1	7.6	5.8	
June	11.6	9.9	7.5	5.7	
July	11.5	9.7	7.3	5.6	
August	11.4	9.5	7.1	5.5	
September	11.2	9.3	6.9	5.4	
October	11.1	9.1	6.7	5.2	
November	11.0	8.9	6.5	5.1	
December	10.9	8.7	6.4	5.0	
Annual average	11.5	9.8	7.4	5.6	

¹ Table contains the revised Standardised Unemployment Rates.

² Benchmark Labour Force Survey/Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) estimates.

³ Interpolated data for May 1996 to March 1997 (see Background Notes).

⁴ The latest QNHS estimate of the unemployment rate (unadjusted for seasonality) is: Jun-Aug 1999, 5.7%.

Background Notes

Source and scope of the Live Register 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 classes:

- All Claimants for Unemployment Benefit (UB) excluding systematic short-time workers (*see Table 4*);
- Applicants for Unemployment Assistance (UA) excluding smallholders and self-employed persons (*see Table 5*);
- Other registrants including applicants for credited Social Welfare contributions but excluding those directly involved in an industrial dispute (*see Table 5*).

Descriptive articles The compilation basis for the Live Register statistics from May 1992 onwards is described in the September 1992 issue of the *Statistical Bulletin*. The March 1980 issue contained a description of the basis used up to April 1992 while a more comprehensive treatment of Live Register statistics appeared in the “Report of the Inter-Departmental Study Group on Unemployment Statistics” (Stationery Office Dublin, Prl. 7925, April 1979). The results of a special study of the differences between the Labour Force Survey (LFS) Estimates of Unemployment and the Live Register are contained in the December 1996 issue of the *Statistical Bulletin*.

Unemployment statistics Unemployment is measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey (formerly the annual Labour Force Survey). The Live Register is not designed to measure unemployment. It includes part-time workers (those who work up to three days a week), seasonal and casual workers entitled to Unemployment Assistance or Unemployment Benefit.

Standardised unemployment rates The Standardised Unemployment Rate (SUR) series in Table 7 is based on the estimated number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the total economically active population (i.e. the labour force), using internationally comparable definitions of employment and unemployment, as recommended by the International Labour Office. Benchmark estimates of the SUR for April of each year are calculated from the Labour Force Survey/Quarterly National Household Survey. The monthly trend in the seasonally adjusted Live Register has been traditionally used to estimate the monthly SUR between successive surveys.

This approach was temporarily suspended following the rapid decline in the Live Register after September 1996. A linear interpolation estimation approach was used between April 1996 and April 1997, as the Live Register series could not be used as an indicator of monthly trends in unemployment during that period. The traditional estimation approach has been used from April 1997 onwards.

QNHS The Quarterly National Household Survey, which began in September 1997, has now replaced the Labour Force Survey and provides quarterly estimates of the unemployment rate. The estimates (unadjusted for seasonality) are:

1997				Q4: 10.4%
1998	Q1: 8.5%	Q2: 7.8%	Q3: 7.6%	Q4: 6.4%
1999	Q1: 5.8%	Q2: 5.7%	Q3: 5.7%	

Seasonal adjustment The seasonal adjustment of the Live Register is completed using the X-11 Variant of the US Bureau of Census Method 2 (Additive Option). The seasonally adjusted series are updated twice yearly, in January and July; pending the next updating, seasonal adjustment for intervening months is carried out using projected seasonal factors. In Tables 3a, b and c the seasonally adjusted totals are the sum of the relevant seasonally adjusted series for males and females, under and over 25 years.

Because QNHS estimates are not yet adjusted for seasonality, only the March–May unemployment rates, which are directly comparable with April LFS data, have been incorporated in the calculation of the monthly SUR.