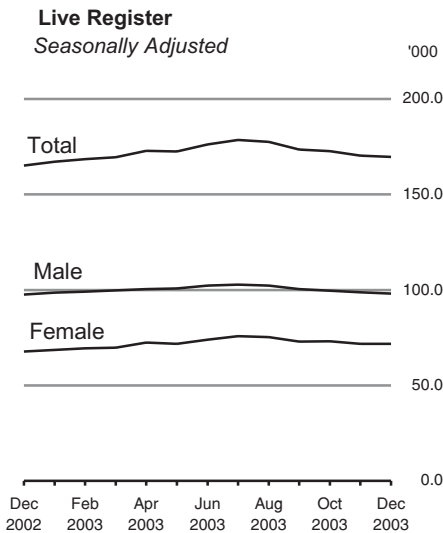




Live Register Analysis December 2003



	Live Register Total	Seasonally Adjusted
December 2002	166,142	165,200
November 2003	164,541	170,400
December 2003	170,604	169,700
Change in month	+ 6,063	- 700
Change in year	+ 4,462	+ 4,500

Decrease in Seasonally Adjusted Live Register

The Live Register increased by 6,063 (+3.7%) persons in December to 170,604. This compares with an increase of 7,506 (+4.7%) in December of last year. When seasonal factors are taken into account the seasonally adjusted total fell from 170,400 in November to 169,700 this month, a decrease of 700. See table 2a and graph opposite.

In the year to December 2003 there was an increase of 4,462 (+2.7%). This compares to an annual increase of 5,905 (+3.7%) recorded in the year to November 2003. The annual increase to December 2002 was 13,736 (+9.0%).

The method of calculation of the SUR has been updated. The standardised unemployment rate in December was 4.7%. This compares with 4.9% in July 2003, based on the Quarterly National Household Survey. See table 3 and background notes.

Other features include:

- ◆ The monthly increase of 6,063 comprised increases of 3,034 males and 3,029 females. See table 1a.
- ◆ The monthly decrease in the Seasonally Adjusted series of 700 was comprised in total by a fall in males. See table 2a.
- ◆ In the month the estimated number of casual and part-time workers on the Live Register was 8,247 males and 13,271 females. See 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 Seasonally Adjusted figure for June-August 2003 is 92,400 persons unemployed.

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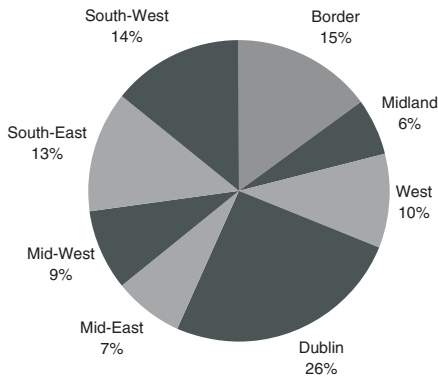
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Live Register by Regional Authority



	December 2003	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Border, Midland and Western	53,065	+ 1,578	+ 389
Border	25,738	+ 630	+ 124
Midland	10,484	+ 385	+ 680
West	16,843	+ 563	- 415
Southern and Eastern	117,539	+ 4,485	+ 4,073
Dublin	43,562	+ 1,231	+ 2,107
Mid-East	12,619	+ 374	+ 1,071
Mid-West	15,042	+ 697	+ 88
South-East	22,030	+ 993	+ 681
South-West	24,286	+ 1,190	+ 126
Total	170,604	+ 6,063	+ 4,462

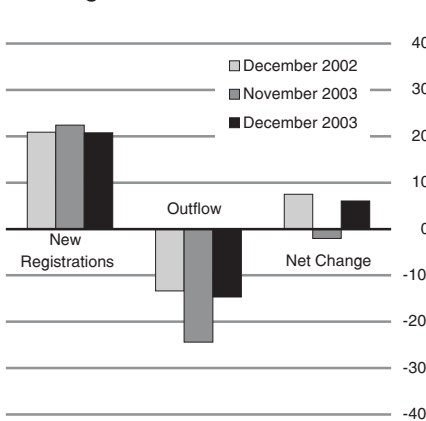
Monthly increases in all regions

The monthly increase of 6,063 persons on the Live Register reflected increases in all regions. The largest percentage increases were in the South-West (+5.2%) and Mid-West (+4.9%) regions. The lowest increases were in the Border (+2.5%) and Dublin (+2.9%) regions.

Other area features in the month include:

- ◆ The number of males increased in all regions. The largest percentage increase was in the South-West (+5.2%) while the lowest increase was in Dublin (+1.9%).
- ◆ The number of females increased in all regions. The largest increase was in the South-East (+5.7%) while the lowest increase was in the Border (+2.6%) region.
- ◆ There were increases in all but one county. The largest increases were in Kerry (+7.7%) and Leitrim (+6.7%) while the lowest increase was in Meath (+0.4%) and there was a slight decrease in Monaghan (-0.1%). *See tables 4 and 6.*

Live Register Flows



	New Registrations	Outflow (derived)	Net Change
Males	11,110	8,076	+ 3,034
Females	9,651	6,622	+ 3,029
Total	20,761	14,698	+ 6,063

New registrants exceed outflows

A total of 20,761 persons joined the Live Register in December 2003. With 14,698 persons leaving the Register there is a net increase of 6,063 persons in the month.

Other features of the flows on and off the Register include:

- ◆ The average weekly increase of 1,516 in the Live Register was comprised of 759 males and 757 females. *See tables 8 and 9.*
- ◆ In the month there were weekly averages of 5,190 new claimants joining the Register and 3,675 persons leaving. *See table 8.*

Table 1a Total persons on the Live Register

Category	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003	Monthly change	Annual change
Males					
UB Claims	38,217	35,626	37,687	+ 2,061	- 530
UA Applications	57,599	57,704	58,562	+ 858	+ 963
Other Registrants	2,854	2,789	2,904	+ 115	+ 50
Total	98,670	96,119	99,153	+ 3,034	+ 483
Females					
UB Claims	37,154	37,440	40,094	+ 2,654	+ 2,940
UA Applications	21,298	22,097	22,163	+ 66	+ 865
Other Registrants	9,020	8,885	9,194	+ 309	+ 174
Total	67,472	68,422	71,451	+ 3,029	+ 3,979
All Persons					
UB Claims	75,371	73,066	77,781	+ 4,715	+ 2,410
UA Applications	78,897	79,801	80,725	+ 924	+ 1,828
Other Registrants	11,874	11,674	12,098	+ 424	+ 224
Total	166,142	164,541	170,604	+ 6,063	+ 4,462

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

Category	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003	Monthly change	Annual change
Males					
UB Claims	6,460	6,234	6,480	+ 246	+ 20
UA Applications	11,475	11,378	11,528	+ 150	+ 53
Other Registrants	52	39	51	+ 12	- 1
Total	17,987	17,651	18,059	+ 408	+ 72
Females					
UB Claims	4,609	5,186	5,204	+ 18	+ 595
UA Applications	7,668	8,163	8,068	- 95	+ 400
Other Registrants	116	106	112	+ 6	- 4
Total	12,393	13,455	13,384	- 71	+ 991
All Persons					
UB Claims	11,069	11,420	11,684	+ 264	+ 615
UA Applications	19,143	19,541	19,596	+ 55	+ 453
Other Registrants	168	145	163	+ 18	- 5
Total	30,380	31,106	31,443	+ 337	+ 1,063

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

Category	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003	Monthly change	Annual change
Males					
UB Claims	31,757	29,392	31,207	+ 1,815	- 550
UA Applications	46,124	46,326	47,034	+ 708	+ 910
Other Registrants	2,802	2,750	2,853	+ 103	+ 51
Total	80,683	78,468	81,094	+ 2,626	+ 411
Females					
UB Claims	32,545	32,254	34,890	+ 2,636	+ 2,345
UA Applications	13,630	13,934	14,095	+ 161	+ 465
Other Registrants	8,904	8,779	9,082	+ 303	+ 178
Total	55,079	54,967	58,067	+ 3,100	+ 2,988
All Persons					
UB Claims	64,302	61,646	66,097	+ 4,451	+ 1,795
UA Applications	59,754	60,260	61,129	+ 869	+ 1,375
Other Registrants	11,706	11,529	11,935	+ 406	+ 229
Total	135,762	133,435	139,161	+ 5,726	+ 3,399

Table 2a Total persons on the Live Register - Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted

	Month	Unadjusted Series			Seasonally Adjusted Series ¹		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
2001	December	91,400	61,000	152,400	91,300 ²	61,800 ²	153,100 ²
2002	January	96,600	63,300	160,000	92,800	63,600	156,300
	February	98,200	64,100	162,300	95,400	64,200	159,600
	March	97,200	65,100	162,300	96,600	67,200	163,800
	April	94,800	61,500	156,200	94,900	63,300	158,200
	May	93,400	61,600	154,900	95,900	65,400	161,300
	June	95,800	68,500	164,300	96,600	66,200	162,800
	July	98,000	74,100	172,100	97,100	68,000	165,100
	August	98,800	74,800	173,600	97,200	68,000	165,200
	September	95,300	66,100	161,400	96,900	67,000	164,000
	October	93,800	63,900	157,700	97,100	66,600	163,700
	November	95,100	63,500	158,600	97,800	66,800	164,600
	December	98,700	67,500	166,100	97,500	67,700	165,200
2003	January	102,300	68,400	170,700	98,500	68,600	167,200
	February	102,000	69,400	171,400	99,100	69,400	168,500
	March	100,500	67,600	168,100	99,800	69,700	169,500
	April	100,300	70,600	170,900	100,400	72,400	172,800
	May	98,300	67,800	166,100	100,800	71,700	172,500
	June	101,600	76,300	177,900	102,300	73,900	176,200
	July	103,600	81,900	185,400	102,700	75,800	178,500
	August	103,800	82,200	186,000	102,200	75,300	177,600
	September	98,800	72,100	170,800	100,500	73,000	173,500
	October	96,300	70,300	166,600	99,500	73,100	172,600
	November	96,100	68,400	164,500	98,700	71,700	170,400
	December	99,200	71,500	170,600	98,000	71,700	169,700

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to June 2003 (See Background Notes).² Based on estimated data for December 2001.**Table 2b Persons under 25 years of age on the Live Register - Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted**

	Month	Unadjusted Series			Seasonally Adjusted Series ¹		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
2001	December	16,400	11,100	27,500	16,800 ²	12,000 ²	28,800 ²
2002	January	18,200	12,300	30,500	17,300	12,300	29,600
	February	18,900	12,600	31,400	18,200	12,600	30,800
	March	18,500	12,300	30,800	18,300	12,800	31,200
	April	17,800	11,800	29,600	18,000	12,500	30,600
	May	17,300	11,800	29,100	18,000	12,800	30,700
	June	18,000	13,400	31,400	18,000	12,700	30,700
	July	19,000	14,700	33,700	18,200	13,200	31,400
	August	19,000	15,000	34,000	18,200	13,300	31,400
	September	17,900	13,600	31,400	18,100	13,200	31,300
	October	17,200	12,500	29,600	18,200	13,000	31,100
	November	17,300	12,200	29,500	18,300	13,000	31,300
	December	18,000	12,400	30,400	18,200	13,100	31,400
2003	January	19,400	13,400	32,800	18,600	13,400	32,000
	February	19,300	13,600	32,900	18,600	13,600	32,200
	March	18,900	13,400	32,200	18,700	13,800	32,600
	April	18,700	13,400	32,000	18,900	14,100	32,900
	May	18,400	13,300	31,700	19,100	14,200	33,300
	June	19,600	15,600	35,200	19,600	14,900	34,500
	July	20,500	16,800	37,300	19,700	15,300	35,000
	August	20,500	16,900	37,300	19,600	15,200	34,800
	September	19,100	15,000	34,100	19,300	14,700	34,000
	October	17,800	13,800	31,600	18,800	14,300	33,100
	November	17,700	13,500	31,100	18,600	14,200	32,900
	December	18,100	13,400	31,400	18,300	14,200	32,500

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to June 2003 (See Background Notes).² Based on estimated data for December 2001.

Table 2c Persons 25 years of age and over on the Live Register - Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted

	Month	Unadjusted Series			Seasonally Adjusted Series ¹		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
2001	December	75,000	49,900	124,900	74,400 ²	49,900 ²	124,300 ²
2002	January	78,400	51,100	129,500	75,400	51,300	126,700
	February	79,400	51,600	130,900	77,200	51,700	128,800
	March	78,700	52,800	131,500	78,300	54,300	132,600
	April	76,900	49,700	126,600	76,900	50,800	127,600
	May	76,100	49,800	125,900	77,900	52,700	130,600
	June	77,700	55,100	132,900	78,600	53,500	132,100
	July	79,000	59,400	138,400	78,900	54,800	133,700
	August	79,700	59,800	139,600	79,000	54,700	133,700
	September	77,400	52,600	130,000	78,900	53,800	132,700
	October	76,700	51,400	128,100	78,900	53,600	132,600
	November	77,800	51,300	129,100	79,500	53,800	133,300
	December	80,700	55,100	135,800	79,300	54,500	133,800
2003	January	82,900	55,000	137,900	80,000	55,200	135,200
	February	82,700	55,700	138,400	80,500	55,800	136,300
	March	81,600	54,200	135,800	81,100	55,900	136,900
	April	81,600	57,300	138,900	81,500	58,300	139,800
	May	79,900	54,500	134,400	81,700	57,500	139,200
	June	82,000	60,700	142,700	82,700	59,000	141,700
	July	83,100	65,000	148,200	83,000	60,500	143,500
	August	83,300	65,300	148,600	82,600	60,100	142,700
	September	79,700	57,000	136,700	81,200	58,300	139,500
	October	78,500	56,500	134,900	80,700	58,800	139,500
	November	78,500	55,000	133,400	80,100	57,500	137,600
	December	81,100	58,100	139,200	79,700	57,600	137,300

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to June 2003 (See Background Notes).

² Based on estimated data for December 2001.

Table 3 Seasonally Adjusted Standardised Unemployment Rates¹ (SUR)

Month	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
January ²	10.7	8.7	5.9	4.8	3.7	4.4	4.6
February	10.6	8.5	5.9	4.7	3.7	4.5	4.6
March	10.5	8.3	5.9	4.5	3.8	4.6	4.6
April ²	10.3	8.0	5.9	4.4	3.8	4.4	4.6
May	10.3	7.8	5.8	4.3	3.9	4.4	4.6
June	10.4	7.5	5.6	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.8
July ²	10.4	7.2	5.4	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.9 ³
August	10.4	7.0	5.3	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.9
September	10.4	6.7	5.3	3.9	4.0	4.5	4.8
October ²	10.4	6.5	5.1	3.9	4.0	4.5	4.8
November	9.9	6.2	5.0	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.7
December	9.3	6.1	4.9	3.8	4.3	4.5	4.7
Annual average	10.3	7.4	5.5	4.2	3.9	4.5	4.7

¹ The method of calculation of the SUR has been updated and values revised to take account of QNHS seasonally adjusted data.

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

³ The latest QNHS estimate of the unemployment rate (adjusted for seasonality) is: June - August 2003, 4.9%.

Table 4 Persons on the Live Register classified by Region

NUTS2 and NUTS3 Regions ¹	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003	Monthly change	Annual change	Under 25 years	25 years & over
Males							
Border, Midland & Western	31,108	29,696	30,554	+ 858	- 554	5,321	25,233
Border	15,403	14,757	15,118	+ 361	- 285	2,764	12,354
Midland	5,508	5,484	5,696	+ 212	+ 188	1,043	4,653
West	10,197	9,455	9,740	+ 285	- 457	1,514	8,226
Southern & Eastern	67,562	66,423	68,599	+ 2,176	+ 1,037	12,738	55,861
Dublin	25,807	26,293	26,780	+ 487	+ 973	5,235	21,545
Mid-East	6,538	6,746	6,934	+ 188	+ 396	1,265	5,669
Mid-West	8,599	7,979	8,315	+ 336	- 284	1,581	6,734
South-East	12,323	11,989	12,462	+ 473	+ 139	2,377	10,085
South-West	14,295	13,416	14,108	+ 692	- 187	2,280	11,828
Total	98,670	96,119	99,153	+ 3,034	+ 483	18,059	81,094
Females							
Border, Midland & Western	21,568	21,791	22,511	+ 720	+ 943	4,435	18,076
Border	10,211	10,351	10,620	+ 269	+ 409	2,243	8,377
Midland	4,296	4,615	4,788	+ 173	+ 492	991	3,797
West	7,061	6,825	7,103	+ 278	+ 42	1,201	5,902
Southern & Eastern	45,904	46,631	48,940	+ 2,309	+ 3,036	8,949	39,991
Dublin	15,648	16,038	16,782	+ 744	+ 1,134	3,156	13,626
Mid-East	5,010	5,499	5,685	+ 186	+ 675	960	4,725
Mid-West	6,355	6,366	6,727	+ 361	+ 372	1,211	5,516
South-East	9,026	9,048	9,568	+ 520	+ 542	1,872	7,696
South-West	9,865	9,680	10,178	+ 498	+ 313	1,750	8,428
Total	67,472	68,422	71,451	+ 3,029	+ 3,979	13,384	58,067
All Persons							
Border, Midland & Western	52,676	51,487	53,065	+ 1,578	+ 389	9,756	43,309
Border	25,614	25,108	25,738	+ 630	+ 124	5,007	20,731
Midland	9,804	10,099	10,484	+ 385	+ 680	2,034	8,450
West	17,258	16,280	16,843	+ 563	- 415	2,715	14,128
Southern & Eastern	113,466	113,054	117,539	+ 4,485	+ 4,073	21,687	95,852
Dublin	41,455	42,331	43,562	+ 1,231	+ 2,107	8,391	35,171
Mid-East	11,548	12,245	12,619	+ 374	+ 1,071	2,225	10,394
Mid-West	14,954	14,345	15,042	+ 697	+ 88	2,792	12,250
South-East	21,349	21,037	22,030	+ 993	+ 681	4,249	17,781
South-West	24,160	23,096	24,286	+ 1,190	+ 126	4,030	20,256
Total	166,142	164,541	170,604	+ 6,063	+ 4,462	31,443	139,161

¹ The composition of the regions is described in the Background Notes.

Table 5 Persons on the Live Register classified by Province

Provinces	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003	Monthly change	Annual change	Under 25 years	25 years & over
Provinces							
Leinster	81,970	83,605	86,257	+ 2,652	+ 4,287	16,392	69,865
Munster	48,859	46,895	49,274	+ 2,379	+ 415	8,760	40,514
Connacht	20,893	19,602	20,310	+ 708	- 583	3,345	16,965
Ulster	14,420	14,439	14,763	+ 324	+ 343	2,946	11,817
Total	166,142	164,541	170,604	+ 6,063	+ 4,462	31,443	139,161

Table 6 Persons on the Live Register classified by Sex, Age Group and Local Office of Registration

NUTS2 and NUTS3 Regions/County/ Local Office	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003	Males			Females		
				Under 25 years	25 years & over	Total	Under 25 years	25 years & over	Total
Border, Midland and Western	50,828	51,487	53,065	5,321	25,233	30,554	4,435	18,076	22,511
Border	24,582	25,108	25,738	2,764	12,354	15,118	2,243	8,377	10,620
Cavan	1,956	2,028	2,128	185	1,077	1,262	176	690	866
Belturbet	413	430	437	35	249	284	26	127	153
Cavan	1,543	1,598	1,691	150	828	978	150	563	713
Donegal	9,426	9,923	10,149	1,120	4,952	6,072	968	3,109	4,077
Ballybofey	954	850	866	109	434	543	99	224	323
Ballyshannon	571	541	569	64	256	320	67	182	249
Buncrana	1,687	1,764	1,817	174	827	1,001	220	596	816
Donegal	528	498	509	53	242	295	41	173	214
Dunfanaghy	985	1,077	1,094	123	539	662	76	356	432
Dungloe	1,477	1,599	1,617	159	829	988	93	536	629
Killybegs	800	832	834	48	429	477	55	302	357
Letterkenny	2,424	2,762	2,843	390	1,396	1,786	317	740	1,057
Leitrim	1,220	1,154	1,231	101	570	671	87	473	560
Carrick-on-Shannon	930	888	932	78	423	501	72	359	431
Manorhamilton	290	266	299	23	147	170	15	114	129
Louth	7,254	7,347	7,508	821	3,518	4,339	610	2,559	3,169
Ardee	784	867	882	100	369	469	72	341	413
Drogheda	2,989	3,431	3,460	345	1,530	1,875	292	1,293	1,585
Dundalk	3,481	3,049	3,166	376	1,619	1,995	246	925	1,171
Monaghan	2,422	2,488	2,486	282	1,160	1,442	215	829	1,044
Carrickmacross	707	647	679	47	298	345	57	277	334
Castleblayney	721	738	739	98	327	425	74	240	314
Clones	272	300	308	41	183	224	22	62	84
Monaghan	722	803	760	96	352	448	62	250	312
Sligo	2,304	2,168	2,236	255	1,077	1,332	187	717	904
Sligo	1,959	1,814	1,884	227	899	1,126	163	595	758
Tubbercurry	345	354	352	28	178	206	24	122	146
Midland	9,424	10,099	10,484	1,043	4,653	5,696	991	3,797	4,788
Laoighis	1,943	2,084	2,196	230	977	1,207	216	773	989
Portarlinton	680	780	814	70	338	408	98	308	406
Portlaoise	902	956	1,008	123	447	570	98	340	438
Rathdowney	361	348	374	37	192	229	20	125	145
Longford	1,746	1,753	1,820	190	855	1,045	164	611	775
Longford	1,746	1,753	1,820	190	855	1,045	164	611	775
Offaly	2,530	2,721	2,840	271	1,313	1,584	273	983	1,256
Birr	784	870	898	91	399	490	101	307	408
Edenderry	640	669	695	67	315	382	52	261	313
Tullamore	1,106	1,182	1,247	113	599	712	120	415	535
Westmeath	3,205	3,541	3,628	352	1,508	1,860	338	1,430	1,768
Athlone	1,440	1,526	1,572	160	632	792	132	648	780
Castlepollard	224	310	312	17	142	159	30	123	153
Mullingar	1,541	1,705	1,744	175	734	909	176	659	835
West	16,822	16,280	16,843	1,514	8,226	9,740	1,201	5,902	7,103
Galway	9,318	9,177	9,348	922	4,495	5,417	767	3,164	3,931
Ballinasloe	1,012	1,093	1,139	125	528	653	86	400	486
Clifden	764	843	891	84	482	566	49	276	325
Galway	5,225	4,867	4,970	537	2,416	2,953	470	1,547	2,017
Gort	428	462	463	24	176	200	26	237	263
Loughrea	695	694	714	48	314	362	58	294	352
Tuam	1,194	1,218	1,171	104	579	683	78	410	488

Table 6 Persons on the Live Register classified by Sex, Age Group and Local Office of Registration

-continued NUTS2 and NUTS3 Regions/County/ Local Office	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003	Males			Females		
				Under 25 years	25 years & over	Total	Under 25 years	25 years & over	Total
Mayo	6,055	5,787	6,106	483	3,010	3,493	353	2,260	2,613
Achill	318	332	365	28	220	248	21	96	117
Ballina	1,785	1,650	1,688	144	862	1,006	127	555	682
Ballinrobe	400	407	450	36	221	257	24	169	193
Belmullet	727	643	645	56	337	393	44	208	252
Castlebar	916	933	991	95	438	533	58	400	458
Claremorris	497	442	503	24	229	253	12	238	250
Swinford	804	755	843	72	378	450	41	352	393
Westport	608	625	621	28	325	353	26	242	268
Roscommon	1,449	1,316	1,389	109	721	830	81	478	559
Boyle	385	371	381	22	203	225	13	143	156
Castlereagh	698	624	645	51	348	399	42	204	246
Roscommon	366	321	363	36	170	206	26	131	157
Southern and Eastern	107,963	113,054	117,539	12,738	55,861	68,599	8,949	39,991	48,940
Dublin	40,105	42,331	43,562	5,235	21,545	26,780	3,156	13,626	16,782
Dublin	40,105	42,331	43,562	5,235	21,545	26,780	3,156	13,626	16,782
Bishop Square	3,876	4,220	4,239	450	2,287	2,737	269	1,233	1,502
Cumberland Street	4,744	5,543	5,658	668	2,846	3,514	416	1,728	2,144
Navan Road	2,681	2,589	2,630	280	1,479	1,759	188	683	871
Blanchardstown	2,889	3,153	3,224	355	1,416	1,771	266	1,187	1,453
Thomas Street	2,221	2,449	2,445	281	1,392	1,673	183	589	772
Tara Street	1,362	1,404	1,467	136	781	917	74	476	550
Tallaght	3,025	3,244	3,401	611	1,518	2,129	349	923	1,272
Ballymun	1,427	1,452	1,445	226	718	944	132	369	501
Clondalkin	2,542	2,824	2,955	405	1,340	1,745	255	955	1,210
Rathfarnham	1,911	2,102	2,260	167	1,045	1,212	122	926	1,048
Kilbarrack	2,788	2,861	2,991	318	1,471	1,789	153	1,049	1,202
Dun Laoghaire	3,212	3,168	3,287	246	1,556	1,802	148	1,337	1,485
Balbriggan	1,176	1,238	1,321	122	575	697	79	545	624
Ballyfermot	1,026	1,186	1,187	191	606	797	132	258	390
Finglas	1,962	2,162	2,218	361	1,120	1,481	158	579	737
Coolock	3,263	2,736	2,834 ¹	418	1,395	1,813	232	789	1,021
Mid-East	10,922	12,245	12,619	1,265	5,669	6,934	960	4,725	5,685
Kildare	4,016	4,569	4,752	496	1,962	2,458	422	1,872	2,294
Athy	770	814	815	94	370	464	83	268	351
Maynooth	1,176	1,385	1,503	163	579	742	105	656	761
Newbridge	2,070	2,370	2,434	239	1,013	1,252	234	948	1,182
Meath	2,817	3,206	3,218	264	1,449	1,713	214	1,291	1,505
Kells	482	581	592	47	271	318	39	235	274
Navan	1,661	1,831	1,813	150	835	985	111	717	828
Trim	674	794	813	67	343	410	64	339	403
Wicklow	4,089	4,470	4,649	505	2,258	2,763	324	1,562	1,886
Arklow	1,119	1,288	1,326	156	655	811	100	415	515
Baltinglass	381	410	417	31	175	206	39	172	211
Bray	1,778	1,908	2,016	200	992	1,192	116	708	824
Wicklow	811	864	890	118	436	554	69	267	336
Mid-West	13,609	14,345	15,042	1,581	6,734	8,315	1,211	5,516	6,727
Clare	3,640	4,060	4,219	401	1,859	2,260	302	1,657	1,959
Ennis	2,105	2,360	2,451	258	1,027	1,285	182	984	1,166
Ennistymon	606	664	698	47	325	372	42	284	326
Kilrush	553	622	640	63	311	374	53	213	266
Tulla	376	414	430	33	196	229	25	176	201
Limerick	7,741	7,697	8,123	909	3,701	4,610	677	2,836	3,513
Kilmallock	802	861	956	105	468	573	75	308	383
Limerick	6,109	5,987	6,280	743	2,809	3,552	507	2,221	2,728
Newcastle West	830	849	887	61	424	485	95	307	402

¹ Coolock replaces previous office Gardiner Street with effect from April 2003.

Table 6 Persons on the Live Register classified by Sex, Age Group and Local Office of Registration

-continued NUTS2 and NUTS3 Regions/County/ Local Office	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003	Males			Females		
				Under 25 years	25 years & over	Total	Under 25 years	25 years & over	Total
North Tipperary	2,228	2,588	2,700	271	1,174	1,445	232	1,023	1,255
Nenagh	826	953	1,000	76	433	509	78	413	491
Roscrea	393	505	530	54	204	258	39	233	272
Thurles	1,009	1,130	1,170	141	537	678	115	377	492
South-East	20,287	21,037	22,030	2,377	10,085	12,462	1,872	7,696	9,568
Carlow	1,979	2,119	2,227	248	973	1,221	188	818	1,006
Bagenalstown	492	544	566	52	291	343	43	180	223
Carlow	1,076	1,150	1,208	141	504	645	102	461	563
Tullow	411	425	453	55	178	233	43	177	220
Kilkenny	2,341	2,606	2,716	309	1,336	1,645	224	847	1,071
Callan	320	380	391	35	218	253	26	112	138
Kilkenny	1,579	1,801	1,890	235	921	1,156	165	569	734
Thomastown	442	425	435	39	197	236	33	166	199
South Tipperary	3,533	3,686	3,848	466	1,858	2,324	343	1,181	1,524
Cahir	476	504	521	46	252	298	49	174	223
Carrick-on-Suir	948	951	1,001	105	534	639	71	291	362
Cashel	348	409	415	49	194	243	32	140	172
Clonmel	1,112	1,106	1,168	166	560	726	122	320	442
Tipperary	649	716	743	100	318	418	69	256	325
Waterford	5,716	5,768	6,098	663	2,781	3,444	466	2,188	2,654
Dungarvan	939	976	1,028	95	477	572	85	371	456
Waterford	4,777	4,792	5,070	568	2,304	2,872	381	1,817	2,198
Wexford	6,718	6,858	7,141	691	3,137	3,828	651	2,662	3,313
Enniscorthy	1,630	1,729	1,796	216	819	1,035	199	562	761
Gorey	1,136	1,176	1,202	107	516	623	118	461	579
New Ross	1,280	1,260	1,287	124	576	700	104	483	587
Wexford	2,672	2,693	2,856	244	1,226	1,470	230	1,156	1,386
South-West	23,040	23,096	24,286	2,280	11,828	14,108	1,750	8,428	10,178
Cork	16,787	16,517	17,200	1,669	8,459	10,128	1,236	5,836	7,072
Bandon	518	512	522	51	261	312	24	186	210
Bantry	374	390	398	22	158	180	23	195	218
Bantry (SWLO)	192	208	218	9	101	110	10	98	108
Clonakilty	395	480	491	27	198	225	37	229	266
Cobh	496	400	455	65	242	307	42	106	148
Cork	8,522	8,144	8,419	992	4,479	5,471	651	2,297	2,948
Dunmanway	228	203	223	21	80	101	18	104	122
Fermoy	765	841	864	72	420	492	59	313	372
Kinsale	656	659	679	41	279	320	45	314	359
Macroom	545	487	548	25	250	275	26	247	273
Mallow	782	760	819	90	428	518	80	221	301
Midleton	1,018	1,006	1,049	73	455	528	68	453	521
Newmarket	482	473	499	42	222	264	36	199	235
Passage West	814	810	831	66	393	459	47	325	372
Skibbereen	387	389	399	14	148	162	10	227	237
Youghal	613	755	786	59	345	404	60	322	382
Kerry	6,253	6,579	7,086	611	3,369	3,980	514	2,592	3,106
Cahirciveen	399	444	500	11	217	228	29	243	272
Dingle	286	357	379	19	175	194	14	171	185
Kenmare	187	182	198	3	78	81	9	108	117
Killarney	1,131	1,185	1,316	95	517	612	115	589	704
Killorglin	458	445	500	26	220	246	23	231	254
Listowel	1,025	1,025	1,132	147	599	746	85	301	386
Tralee	2,767	2,941	3,061	310	1,563	1,873	239	949	1,188
State	158,791	164,541	170,604	18,059	81,094	99,153	13,384	58,067	71,451

**Table 7 Flows on and off the Live Register in the 4 weeks from
28 November 2003 to 26 December 2003**

	Total	New Registrations	Net Change	Outflow (derived)
Border, Midland & Western	53,065	6,049	+ 1,578	4,471
Border	25,738	2,677	+ 630	2,047
Midland	10,484	1,315	+ 385	930
West	16,843	2,057	+ 563	1,494
Southern & Eastern	117,539	14,712	+ 4,485	10,227
Dublin	43,562	5,199	+ 1,231	3,968
Mid-East	12,619	1,649	+ 374	1,275
Mid-West	15,042	2,031	+ 697	1,334
South-East	22,030	2,637	+ 993	1,644
South-West	24,286	3,196	+ 1,190	2,006
Sex				
Males	99,153	11,110	+ 3,034	8,076
Females	71,451	9,651	+ 3,029	6,622
Total	170,604	20,761	+ 6,063	14,698

Table 8 Summary of Flows on and off the Live Register and Average Weekly Flow

	Number of weeks	New Registrations (count)		Outflow (derived)		Average weekly change in the Live Register	
		Number	Weekly average	Number	Weekly average		
2001	December	3	19,527	6,509	14,242	4,747	+ 1,762
2002	January	5	31,817	6,363	24,263	4,853	+ 1,511
	February	4	25,468	6,367	23,091	5,773	+ 594
	March	5	29,785	5,957	29,870	5,974	- 17
	April	4	20,108	5,027	26,123	6,531	- 1,504
	May	5	25,082	5,016	26,375	5,275	- 259
	June	4	27,530	6,883	18,197	4,549	+ 2,333
	July	4	26,633	6,658	18,812	4,703	+ 1,955
	August	5	25,540	5,108	24,075	4,815	+ 293
	September	4	21,098	5,275	33,229	8,307	- 3,033
	October	4	23,160	5,790	26,886	6,722	- 932
	November	5	29,506	5,901	28,576	5,715	+ 186
	December	4	20,884	5,221	13,378	3,345	+ 1,877
2003	January	5	32,776	6,555	28,217	5,643	+ 912
	February	4	23,767	5,942	23,074	5,769	+ 173
	March	4	19,946	4,987	23,281	5,820	- 834
	April	4	23,869	5,967	20,988	5,247	+ 720
	May	5	25,089	5,018	29,924	5,985	- 967
	June	4	30,455	7,614	18,708	4,677	+ 2,937
	July	4	27,917	6,979	20,322	5,081	+ 1,899
	August	5	25,816	5,163	25,310	5,062	+ 101
	September	4	22,248	5,562	37,379	9,345	- 3,783
	October	5	22,329	4,466	26,599	5,320	- 854
	November	4	22,371	5,593	24,382	6,096	- 503
	December	4	20,761	5,190	14,698	3,675	+ 1,516

Table 9 Summary of Flows on and off the Live Register classified by Sex

		Number of weeks	Males				Females			
			Live Register	New Regis- trations	Outflow (derived)	Average weekly change	Live Register	New Regis- trations	Outflow (derived)	Average weekly change
2001	December	3	91,394	11,237	7,946	+ 1,097	61,012	8,290	6,296	+ 665
2002	January	5	96,623	17,938	12,709	+ 1,046	63,337	13,879	11,554	+ 465
	February	4	98,215	14,912	13,320	+ 398	64,122	10,556	9,771	+ 196
	March	5	97,183	16,518	17,550	- 206	65,069	13,267	12,320	+ 189
	April	4	94,778	11,351	13,756	- 601	61,459	8,757	12,367	- 903
	May	5	93,356	14,356	15,778	- 284	61,588	10,726	10,597	+ 26
	June	4	95,765	13,087	10,678	+ 602	68,512	14,443	7,519	+ 1,731
	July	4	98,006	13,099	10,858	+ 560	74,092	13,534	7,954	+ 1,395
	August	5	98,771	14,085	13,320	+ 153	74,792	11,455	10,755	+ 140
	September	4	95,289	11,521	15,003	- 871	66,143	9,577	18,226	- 2,162
	October	4	93,829	13,201	14,661	- 365	63,877	9,959	12,225	- 567
	November	5	95,121	16,591	15,299	+ 258	63,515	12,915	13,277	- 72
	December	4	98,670	11,279	7,730	+ 887	67,472	9,605	5,648	+ 989
2003	January	5	102,335	18,502	14,837	+ 733	68,366	14,274	13,380	+ 179
	February	4	102,026	13,047	13,356	- 77	69,368	10,720	9,718	+ 251
	March	4	100,459	11,655	13,222	- 392	67,600	8,291	10,059	- 442
	April	4	100,328	12,152	12,283	- 33	70,612	11,717	8,705	+ 753
	May	5	98,261	13,804	15,871	- 413	67,844	11,285	14,053	- 554
	June	4	101,574	14,455	11,142	+ 828	76,278	16,000	7,566	+ 2,109
	July	4	103,590	13,372	11,356	+ 504	81,857	14,545	8,966	+ 1,395
	August	5	103,766	14,131	13,955	+ 35	82,187	11,685	11,355	+ 66
	September	4	98,759	11,878	16,885	- 1,252	72,063	10,370	20,494	- 2,531
	October	5	96,261	11,697	14,195	- 500	70,291	10,632	12,404	- 354
	November	4	96,119	12,611	12,753	- 36	68,422	9,760	11,629	- 467
	December	4	99,153	11,110	8,076	+ 759	71,451	9,651	6,622	+ 757

Table 10 Persons working on systematic short-time basis excluded from the Live Register

	Month	Males	Females	Total
2001	December	1,390	2,046	3,436
2002	January	1,476	2,132	3,608
	February	1,516	2,062	3,578
	March	1,504	2,098	3,602
	April	1,472	1,974	3,446
	May	1,550	1,785	3,335
	June	1,474	1,580	3,054
	July	1,444	1,632	3,076
	August	1,195	1,590	2,785
	September	1,093	1,630	2,723
	October	1,227	1,773	3,000
	November	1,104	1,650	2,754
	December	999	1,608	2,607
2003	January	1,167	1,731	2,898
	February	1,311	1,931	3,242
	March	1,404	1,898	3,302
	April	1,361	1,841	3,202
	May	1,278	1,698	2,976
	June	1,506	1,748	3,254
	July	1,255	1,724	2,979
	August	1,127	1,594	2,721
	September	1,006	1,504	2,510
	October	873	1,414	2,287
	November	868	1,422	2,290
	December	903	1,507	2,410

Table 11 Smallholders/Farm Assists and Self-employed persons applying for Unemployment Assistance and Other Registrants excluded from the Live Register

	Month	Smallholders/ Farm Assists ¹	Self-employed	Others	Total
2001	December	8,514	1,536	715	10,765
2002	January	8,521	1,522	758	10,801
	February	8,537	1,542	792	10,871
	March	8,536	1,545	785	10,866
	April	8,558	1,558	767	10,883
	May	8,561	1,541	764	10,866
	June	8,513	1,533	795	10,841
	July	8,513	1,566	855	10,934
	August	8,566	1,561	861	10,988
	September	8,607	1,553	830	10,990
	October	8,719	1,546	850	11,115
	November	8,732	1,544	870	11,146
	December	8,770	1,550	921	11,241
2003	January	8,779	1,551	907	11,237
	February	8,777	1,573	915	11,265
	March	8,798	1,627	891	11,316
	April	8,773	1,620	948	11,341
	May	8,820	1,659	920	11,399
	June	8,811	1,684	953	11,448
	July	8,825	1,712	983	11,520
	August	8,811	1,721	970	11,502
	September	8,796	1,724	915	11,435
	October	8,783	1,727	917	11,427
	November	8,813	1,742	912	11,467
	December	8,833	1,759	946	11,538

¹ Farm Assist Scheme was introduced in April 1999.

Table 12 Persons under 65 years, other than Smallholders/Farm Assists, 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
2001	December	11,860	8,040	19,900	14,226	5,674
2002	January	11,758	7,981	19,739	14,102	5,637
	February	11,742	7,934	19,676	14,059	5,617
	March	11,685	7,879	19,564	14,001	5,563
	April	11,666	7,823	19,489	13,923	5,566
	May	11,616	7,688	19,304	13,780	5,524
	June	11,538	7,696	19,234	13,714	5,520
	July	11,456	7,721	19,177	13,679	5,498
	August	11,349	7,757	19,106	13,603	5,503
	September	11,313	7,708	19,021	13,597	5,424
	October	11,329	7,742	19,071	13,639	5,432
	November	11,312	7,817	19,129	13,659	5,470
	December	11,247	7,718	18,965	13,518	5,447
2003	January	11,213	7,763	18,976	13,523	5,453
	February	11,228	7,690	18,918	13,489	5,429
	March	11,232	7,692	18,924	13,484	5,440
	April	11,246	7,695	18,941	13,328	5,613
	May	11,202	7,997	19,199	13,529	5,670
	June	11,179	8,063	19,242	13,554	5,688
	July	11,112	7,945	19,057	13,473	5,584
	August	11,064	7,842	18,906	13,349	5,557
	September	11,021	7,903	18,924	13,345	5,579
	October	10,979	7,970	18,949	13,336	5,613
	November	11,008	8,021	19,029	13,378	5,651
	December	10,977	8,019	18,996	13,349	5,647

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 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 10*)
- ◆ Applicants for Unemployment Assistance (UA) excluding smallholders/farm assists and other self-employed persons (*see Table 11*)
- ◆ Other registrants including applicants for credited Social Welfare contributions but excluding those directly involved in an industrial dispute (*see Table 11*).

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

Standardised unemployment rates The Standardised Unemployment Rate (SUR) series in Table 3 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 January, April, July and October of each year are calculated using seasonally adjusted data from the Quarterly National Household Survey. The monthly trend in the seasonally adjusted Live Register is then 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 (adjusted for seasonality) are:

Year	Q1 %	Q2 %	Q3 %	Q4 %
1998	8.7	8.0	7.2	6.5
1999	5.9	5.9	5.4	5.1
2000	4.8	4.4	4.1	3.9
2001	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.0
2002	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6
2003	4.6	4.6	4.9	

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 2a, 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.

Casual and part-time workers	The casual and part-time workers' figure is based on an estimate supplied by the Department of Social and Family Affairs. People may apply for Unemployment Benefit / Assistance if they only work for part of a week and be included on the Live Register.
History of Flow Analysis	The flow analysis of the Live Register had been published monthly as a separate release since January 1989. Similar details were previously included in the Industrial Analysis of the Live Register, which was discontinued.
Live Register Flow Analysis	Changes in the level of flows on and off the Live Register in any month reflect conditions in the labour market and aspects of the social insurance system such as transfers to or from other welfare schemes, exhaustion of Unemployment Benefit (UB) entitlement without qualifying for Unemployment Assistance (UA) etc.
New registrations	The aggregate of <i>new registrations</i> for each Friday in a given month is used in conjunction with the <i>net change</i> over the same period to calculate the <i>outflow</i> from the register. A <i>new registration</i> is defined as anybody on the Live Register on a particular Friday who was not on it on the previous Friday.
Live Register Area Analysis	The basis of the area classification used in this release is the Department of Social and Family Affairs local office of registration. The areas 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. A classification by area of residence of persons on the Live Register was published until January 1989 but was then discontinued.
NUTS2 and NUTS3 regions	The regional classifications in this release are based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The NUTS3 regions correspond 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. The NUTS2 regions, which were proposed by Government and agreed by Eurostat in 1999, are groupings of the NUTS3 regions. <i>See below.</i>

Border, Midland and Western NUTS2 Region

Border	Cavan Donegal Leitrim Louth Monaghan Sligo
Midland	Laoighis Longford Offaly Westmeath
West	Galway City Galway County Mayo Roscommon

Southern and Eastern NUTS2 Region

Dublin	Dublin Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Fingal South Dublin
Mid-East	Kildare Meath Wicklow
Mid-West	Clare Limerick City Limerick County North Tipperary
South-East	Carlow Kilkenny South Tipperary Waterford City Waterford County Wexford
South-West	Cork City Cork County Kerry