

## **Eurostat/OECD 2018 questionnaire on the methodology underlying labour input data in national accounts**

Country: Ireland  
Date: April 2018

### ***Part I: Methods***

#### **1. Employment in persons**

***Question 1.1:*** Please describe the architecture of your estimation method for employment in persons. Please include details of differences in methods and data sources that may exist at different points in the time series (e.g. a break in the series) or due to the timing of the estimate (e.g. flash estimate, regular estimate or annual data). Please also provide links to articles that may be relevant.

- All data on employment in persons is from the Quarterly National Household Survey, QNHS, for years 1998 to 2010. From 2017Q3, this survey has been replaced by the Labour Force Survey, LFS.
- From year 2011 onwards, the number of employees is taken from a combination of the Earnings, Hours and Employment Costs Survey, EHECS (Activity Nace B-S) and the QNHS.
- The data on self-employed numbers is from the QNHS.

***Question 1.2:*** What is the main original source for employment in the national accounts (e.g. administrative source, labour force survey, business survey, other)? Briefly describe this source, its coverage (including over time, range of businesses/households covered, etc.), its availability and whether it is in terms of jobs and/or persons.

- The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) is a large-scale, nationwide survey of households in Ireland. It is designed to produce quarterly labour force estimates that include the official measure of employment and unemployment in the state (International Labour Organisation classification). The QNHS also conducts special modules on different social topics on a periodic basis in selected quarters of particular years. 26,000 households are surveyed every quarter
- Earnings, Hours and Employment Costs Survey (EHECS) surveys all enterprises in NACE sectors B-S with 50 or more employees and a sample of those with 3 to 49 employees are surveyed each quarter. Sample size is 7,500.

***Question 1.3:*** Please describe how estimates of annual figures based on higher frequency data (e.g. weekly, monthly, quarterly) are derived. Please also specify, if relevant, how annual figures are derived if survey information is less periodic (e.g. every 5 years)?

- Annual data provided directly by QNHS and EHECS sections. These are based on the 4 quarters in these surveys.

**Question 1.4: Please describe the adjustments made to pass from jobs to the concept of persons (if the original source is in terms of jobs).**

- Original data provided is in persons. No adjustment is required from job to person.

**Question 1.5: Please describe the adjustments made to correct for coverage of the economic territory (see ESA §11.17-11.19)? This refers specifically to residents working for non-resident units abroad non-residents working in resident units. If relevant, please also describe adjustments for military (including conscripts, where applicable) and other collective households not covered by your main source.**

- Residents working for non-resident units abroad non-residents working in resident units data is provided by our Balance of Payments section within the Central Statistics Office.

**Question 1.6: Which adjustments are made for the unobserved economy (e.g. producers that deliberately do not register, individuals providing their labour that are not required to register, illegal workers, etc.)?**

- Adjustments are already made in the source data that is provided to use.

**Question 1.7: Which, if any, other adjustments are made (e.g. inclusion of resident workers below the age threshold, prisoners, adjustments made to account for statistical deficiencies in the source data, etc.)?**

- Adjustments are already made in the source data that is provided to use.

**Question 1.8: In cases where Labour Force Survey data have not been used as the main source (even if only for some activities or groups of workers), please explain why. Are LFS data used for adjustments or cross-checking? Are differences monitored?**

- Labour Force Survey data is used.

## **2. Hours worked**

**Question 2.1: Please describe the architecture of your estimation method for hours worked. Please include details of differences in methods and data sources that may exist at different points in the time series (e.g. a break in the series). Please also provide links to articles that may be relevant.**

- All data on hours worked is from the Quarterly National Household Survey, QNHS, for years 1998 to 2010.
- From year 2011 onwards, the number of hours is taken from a combination of the Earnings, Hours and Employment Costs Survey, EHECS (Activity Nace B-S) and the QNHS.
- The data on self-employed hours numbers is from the QNHS.

**Question 2.2: What is the main original source for hours worked in the national accounts (e.g. administrative source, Labour Force Survey, Business survey)? Briefly describe this source, its coverage and its ability to reflect the definition of hours worked (see ESA §11.27-11.31). In particular, does it capture a ‘usual’ hours, ‘actual’ hours, or some other concept?**

- The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) is a large-scale, nationwide survey of households in Ireland. It is designed to produce quarterly labour force estimates that include the official measure of employment and unemployment in the state (International Labour Organisation classification). The QNHS also conducts special modules on different social topics on a periodic basis in selected quarters of particular years. 26,000 households are surveyed every quarter
- Earnings, Hours and Employment Costs Survey (EHECS) surveys all enterprises in NACE sectors B-S with 50 or more employees and a sample of those with 3 to 49 employees are surveyed each quarter. Sample size is 7,500.
- Surveys provided data on actual hours.

**Question 2.3: Please describe the adjustments made to transform the original source to adapt it to the concept of working hours as defined in national accounts? Please, describe each adjustment separately. These adjustments might include:**

- Accounting for holidays and annual leave

Adjustments are already made in the source data that is provided to use.

- Accounting for sickness leave

Adjustments are already made in the source data that is provided to use.

- Accounting for strikes and temporary lay-offs

Adjustments are already made in the source data that is provided to use.

- Accounting for paid but unreported overtime

Adjustments are already made in the source data that is provided to use.

- Accounting for unpaid overtime

Adjustments are already made in the source data that is provided to use.

**Question 2.4: Is a specific adjustment made to account for under- or over-reporting in the source data? Please specify if these adjustments are made for employees and/or self-employed workers.**

- Adjustments are already made in the source data that is provided to use.

**Question 2.5: If an adjustment is made for the number of persons employed in relation to the unobserved economy, what assumption is made regarding the hours worked by these persons?**

- Adjustments are already made in the source data that is provided to use.

**Question 2.6: Which other adjustments, if any, are made?**

N/A

**Question 2.7:** If necessary, please describe any additional calculations needed to derive total hours worked and average hours worked from the sources and adjustments specified above. This includes, but is not limited to, adjustments made to align the coverage of hours worked with that of employment in persons (i.e. the coverage produced by the process followed in section 1).

- Variables provided from the source data.

## ***Part II: Other work in this area***

### **3. Differences between national accounts and Labour Force Survey estimates**

**Question 3.1:** To what extent do you consider your Labour Force Survey an accurate tool for the measurement of employment and hours worked? Please describe any issues or shortcomings of which you may be aware.

- We assume our LFS data to be an accurate tool for measurement of employment and hours worked.

**Question 3.2:** If the Labour Force Survey is not the primary source of data used to derive your estimates of employment in persons hours worked: Are you able to quantify, even approximately, what the difference would be between your current national accounts estimates and those you would obtain if you did use the Labour Force Survey data as your primary source?

N/A

**Question 3.2.1:** Where differences between these estimates exist, can you provide a brief assessment of the source of these differences?

### **4. Flash estimates of employment in persons**

**Question 4.1:** Are you currently producing flash estimates of employment (t+30 or t+45)? If so, please describe briefly the methodology, coverage and sources. If you are not producing a flash estimate, do you have plans to start doing so in the future?

No flash estimates are available at present. CSO has no plans to produce flash estimates in the near future.

**Question 4.2: Please provide information on the quality of the estimates (e.g. revision analysis).**

N/A

## **5. Other data produced (Optional)**

**Question 5.1: Do you have plans in the near future to improve or expand the content of national accounts labour input data (e.g. improved alignment with national accounts concepts, extension of the time series, increased industry detail, etc.)?**

- Always looking at ways to improve alignment with national accounts concepts in the normal course of work.

**Question 5.2: Do you produce labour input data other than that already discussed, for example quality adjusted labour input or labour input in terms of full-time equivalents? If so, please provide details and/or links to these data.**

- No, we don't produce statistics on this.

**Question 5.3: Do you produce productivity statistics (e.g. labour productivity for the total economy, further breakdowns of labour productivity, capital productivity, multi-factor productivity, etc.)? If so, please provide details and/or links with regards to these data.**

- Yes, we intend to produce a new publication on labour and total factor productivity in the Irish economy in the coming months.

**Question 5.4: If there is any other work that you produce currently, or are looking to produce in the future, in the areas of labour input or productivity, please use the space below to inform us about this work.**

No other work planned at present.