



Implementation of Strategy for Statistics 1998-2002

Progress Report, 2002

National Statistics Board

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ISBN 0-7557-1510-1

Published by the Stationery Office, Dublin.

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Abbreviations

BOP	Balance of Payments
COP	Census of Population
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CSQAG	Civil Service Quality and Assurance Group
DAPs	Divisional Action Plans
DMS	Data Management System
ECB	European Central Bank
ECHP	European Community Household Panel
EMU	European Monetary Union
ESA95	European System of Accounts
EU-SILC	EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions
HBS	Household Budget Survey
HICP	EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices
HR	Human Resources
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISSDA	Irish Social Sciences Data Archive
LBP	Local Business Plans
LIIS	Living in Ireland Survey
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities
NAMEA	National Accounting Matrix including Environmental Accounts
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
PMDS	Performance Management Development System
QNHS	Quarterly National Household Survey
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standards
SGSES	Steering Group on Social and Equality Statistics
SMEs	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
SMI	Strategic Management Initiative
VIMA	VAT Intrastat Mutual Assistance
WPI	Wholesale Price Index

Chairperson's Preface

The main function of the National Statistics Board is to guide the strategic direction of the Central Statistics Office in meeting Ireland's needs for official statistics in economic, social and other areas. The main way in which the Board has sought to develop official statistics is through a series of five-year strategies, which established priorities for the CSO. This report represents the last of the Board's reviews of the 1998-2002 Board strategy¹. The report contains a broad review of progress made over the five-year strategy period as well as identifying a number of specific issues that arose during 2002. The Board is very pleased with the progress and achievements that have been made during the period of this strategy. While a number of the achievements are identified in this progress report, a fuller review of some of the significant changes can be found in the CSO annual progress reports on its Statement of Strategy.

This report also briefly examines the changed context in which the next Board strategy is being prepared. Preceding the development of new strategies, the Board undertakes a survey of key CSO users to receive comments on the present system, identify progress since the previous survey, and receive direction toward future priorities. The results of the survey of CSO users, undertaken by the Board in 2002, were very encouraging. The results showed that users had a clear perception of a significant improvement by the CSO in the delivery of services, in timeliness, and in the capacity of the CSO to meet the changing requirements of users in comparison with the 1997 survey. Considerable developments have taken place in CSO statistics during the strategy period. In addition, the CSO is in the process of changing to a user driven IT environment and has been to the forefront in introducing new initiatives in HR and in other areas such as project management, Partnership and strategic planning.

The Board undertook a scoping study of social statistics during 2002-2003 and presented its findings to Government. The report, and the accompanying memorandum, contained recommendations and decisions requiring the Board to look at a broader framework for statistics. In the Board's view, the scale of national and international contextual changes is such that it is no longer in Ireland's interests to conceive of developments in statistics in an incremental way. Previous Board strategies focused largely on meeting Ireland's needs for statistics through expanding and developing the statistical series produced by the CSO, taking particular account of developments within the EU statistical system. This approach served the needs of earlier periods well and resulted in many major developments being undertaken by the CSO in both the social and economic spheres. However many government departments and agencies now manage significant data sources, and commission statistical research, that should also be considered part of official statistics.

In its next strategy, the Board will propose a broader and more collaborative approach to the collection of public service statistics. A more networked approach will make more efficient use of existing data sources and create a closer relationship between data users and producers. In particular, the CSO will be asked to examine how the statistical potential of administrative records and department-funded surveys can be better integrated into official statistics to meet the increasing needs of users.

Frances Ruane
Chairperson

¹ NSB (1998), "Strategy for Statistics, 1998-2002", Stationery Office, Dublin

Chapter

1

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews the progress made by the CSO in achieving the statistical and organisational objectives outlined in the Board's 1998-2002 strategy. The 1998-2002 strategy identified specific objectives under five headings:

- ◆ Macroeconomic statistics
- ◆ Social and demographic statistics
- ◆ Business statistics
- ◆ Other statistical issues
- ◆ CSO organisational developments

The first three headings cover the three major CSO statistical areas. There have been very important developments in all three areas during the lifetime of this Board strategy with significant improvements in both the width and depth of statistical coverage. In some cases, statistics are now being published more frequently as in the case, for example, of the quarterly national accounts. Surveys are also yielding extra information such as that provided by the regular social modules attached to the Quarterly National Household Survey.

The focus in *Other statistical issues* was on emerging statistical areas such as the demand for environment and energy statistics. This heading also identified initiatives to reduce the statistical reporting burden and examined the work of the Liaison Groups. The Board gathers the views of users in a number of other ways also – through user surveys, through specific advisory groups for developing survey modules, through ongoing contact and through seminars. The Liaison Groups have not been as effective on an ongoing basis as had been initially hoped and the Board consider that it may be better to involve users more intensively in specific tasks rather than through the more general Liaison Group annual meetings.

The fifth heading dealt with the strategic organisational developments impacting on the CSO. There have been very significant advances made by the CSO in this area in the last five years. These particularly relate to the development of the ICT function, well focused eGovernment initiatives, the office-wide adoption of a project management approach and in the human resources and customer service areas. There was a significant increase in the number of statistician posts during the period of this strategy. The Board is pleased that this investment has resulted in highly significant quality and output gains across the CSO.

Chapter

2

**Macroeconomic
Statistics**

2.1 General review

The key issues for macroeconomic statistics over the period covered by the Strategy have been improvements in quality and timeliness. International developments, and particularly increased economic and monetary integration in Europe, led to a need for specific improvements in Irish macroeconomic statistics so that they could meet European Central Bank (ECB), EU and IMF standards in terms of quality and timeliness. The Board has supported CSO's developments in this regard. Significant improvements in the quality of our national accounts have resulted in the removal of a number of specific EU reservations on these estimates.

New surveys of the financial services sector and expansion in the coverage of manufacturing and non-financial service enterprises have greatly extended the scope of the Balance of Payments (BOP) system. The new surveys have provided an increased level of detail on Direct Investment and on Portfolio Investment, which are particularly important for Ireland in the context of increased globalisation. The surveys have been the basis for the development of a new report on Ireland's International Investment Position covering the period 1998-2001 which was issued in December 2002.

2.2 The compilation of the extensive additional Balance of Payments detail required, beginning in 1999, to meet the needs of the European Central Bank

This objective was achieved following the introduction of a new enhanced collection and compilation system to give a much more comprehensive picture of Ireland's transactions with the Rest of the World. The expansion of the BOP data collection system in 1998 resulted in the inclusion of Irish Financial Services Centre (IFSC) enterprises for the first time. CSO engaged in an in-depth prior consultation with IFSC representative associations and member companies on the need to capture their activities and to involve them in designing the survey forms and instructions. Following this, five comprehensive surveys were introduced in 1998, each customised to some extent to reflect individual financial services activities (e.g. fund management, insurance, treasury, banking, etc.). All entities are targeted over a full year, the larger ones reporting quarterly while the smaller companies report annually. The emerging scale of this exercise was such that the Board supported CSO requests for additional resources to enable this objective to be met.

As of early 2002, monthly estimates of the main BOP flows were being provided to the European Central Bank. The CSO were invited to present the new BOP system at an Eurostat seminar in Luxembourg in 2002. The system was very well received, with keen interest shown by both Member States and Candidate countries.

2.3 The publication of Quarterly National Accounts beginning in 1999

The new European System of Accounts (ESA95) was introduced with the 1999 National Income and Expenditure results. Using the ESA95 methodology, quarterly National Accounts were published in November 1999 covering the period January 1997 to March 1999. The quarterly accounts are now well established and the current CSO focus is on further improvements in timeliness and quality. The average time-lag for publishing the quarterly accounts in 2002 was 18 weeks. Four months is the current statutory guideline for EU purposes but beginning with the results for the fourth quarter of 2003, this target has been reduced to three months. A new and challenging deadline of 70 days has been set in the European Monetary Union Action Plan for statistics. It will be extremely difficult for the CSO to produce good quality estimates within such a tight deadline.

2.4 The improvement in the quality of the constant price estimates in the National Accounts in the context of the Stability and Growth Pact

A 1998 Commission Decision (98/715/CE) set new standards for the compilation of output volumes to ensure uniform measurement, especially in non-market services such as health and education. Preparatory work has been undertaken on the development of new methodologies in the non-market services area that directly measure outputs rather than inputs. Some of these improvements will be incorporated into the National Accounts during 2003.

2.5 The publication of the Balance of Payments statistics within 12 weeks for the first quarter of 1999

For 2002, the quarterly BOP estimates were published on average 15 weeks after the end of each quarter. Following the consolidation of the data collection and production process, it is intended that a three-month deadline for the publication of the 2003 results will be achieved.

2.6 The publication of detailed External Trade statistics within 14 weeks (global estimates in 10 weeks) by 2000

The determining factor in the timeliness of the External Trade statistics is the timeliness of the returns made by intra-EU traders to the monthly Intrastat survey which is undertaken by the VIMA Office of the Revenue Commissioners. The Board timeliness targets have largely been achieved. Work was also undertaken to improve the quality of the detailed commodity by country detail. A new editing system was introduced by VIMA in 1999, in co-operation with CSO, to manage this problem. The other major aspect of quality requiring improvement was the estimation of price trends for imports and exports to allow the breakdown of total value into volume and price components. Work is ongoing on the adoption of a new methodology for calculating price indices.

2.7 The continued development of the EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) in collaboration with Eurostat and other member states

The methodology for Ireland has been aligned more closely with the methodology recommended by the EU for the HICP. The index was extended to include the private expenditure of visitors to Ireland and of the residents of institutions. Methodological problems in covering health and owner-occupied housing on a harmonised EU basis were resolved and incorporated into the HICP.

2.8 The updating of the CPI and HICP weights in December 2001 (based on the results of the 1999/2000 Household Budget Survey) and 5-yearly thereafter

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rebasing was achieved on target with the release of the January 2002 index. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was published to base 2000=100 with the January 2003 WPI release. The next Household Budget Survey (HBS) is scheduled for 2004/2005. This will enable the CPI and the HICP to be rebased at a more standard five-yearly interval.

Board's Comment

The Board is pleased with these developments in macroeconomic statistics, and in particular with the improvements in quality and coverage that have been achieved. The regular publication of quarterly national accounts and the removal of EU reservations are two notable

successes for the CSO. The Board is aware of the added complexity involved in collecting macroeconomic statistics that now cover a more diverse range of activities. The Board recognises that further work is required to provide the full range of statistical information needed for the management of economic and monetary union.

Chapter

3

**Social and Demographic
Statistics**

3.1 General review

The development of social statistics was given a high priority in the 1998-2002 strategy. A key aim was to begin the process of incorporating social modules into the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). This objective has been achieved and special modules are now a regular feature of the QNHS (See Table 1). EU proposals for the development of the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) have resulted in the CSO taking over the conduct of this survey from the ESRI. The final Living in Ireland Survey (LIIS) was taken in 2001 and the CSO launched the new EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions in June 2003 (EU-SILC).

Another key focus for the development of social statistics was to examine the statistical potential of administrative records in government departments and agencies. A scoping study was undertaken to determine the extent to which administrative sources could be used to meet some of the emerging needs for social statistics. This study was published in April 2003 (see Sections 3.7 and 7.4). The report, and accompanying government memorandum, identified a number of specific actions to be undertaken during 2003 and 2004. The CSO has commenced work on the first of these actions, namely the preparation of a preliminary national progress indicators report. The Board will monitor progress on the implementation of the other recommendations in its annual strategy reports.

3.2 *The consolidation of the Quarterly National Household Survey by 1999 so that its full potential is realised as an invaluable source of information on labour market and social issues*

The QNHS was introduced in September 1997 as a replacement for the annual Labour Force Survey. A wide range of data on the labour force are now available on a quarterly basis within three months of the reference quarter. The introduction of the quarterly series was used by the CSO to adopt the ILO criteria as the basis for presenting official labour force statistics in place of the traditional Principal Economic Status approach.

Significant progress has also been made in using the QNHS as a means of collecting a broad range of information on social issues through the incorporation of special survey modules on a periodic basis. Table 1 outlines the sequence and publication dates for the modules included in the QNHS to-date.

3.3 *The completion of a comprehensive review of the presentation and coherence of labour market statistics in 1999 once the QNHS results are on stream*

This review is ongoing in consultation with the Labour Market Statistics Liaison Group. The review has resulted in the consolidation of the Live Register releases and the development of the QNHS quarterly release.

3.4 *The conduct of a Household Budget Survey (HBS) in 1999/2000*

The interval between HBS surveys was reduced from seven to five years with the holding of the 1999/2000 survey. This change will allow the CPI to be rebased every five years. The sampling scheme was revised to align it with the structure of the QNHS sample. This improves the accuracy of the results through the use of estimates from the much larger QNHS to re-weight for non-response in the HBS. The publication programme was completed with the release of the final results in October 2002. Preparatory work has commenced for the 2004/2005 survey.

Table1 Publication dates of QNHS modules

Undertaken	Module	Published
Q3 1998	Housing and households	December 2000
Q4 1998	Crime and victimisation	November 1999
Q1 1999	Recycling and energy conservation	May 2000
Q1 2000	Travel to work	September 2000
Q4 2000	Home computing	March 2001
Q2 2001	Length and pattern of working time	November 2001
Q3 2001	Health	May 2002
Q1 2002	Pensions	September 2002
Q2 2002	Disability in the labour force	November 2002
Q3 2002	Teleworking	February 2003
Q3 2002	Voter participation and abstention	April 2003
Q4 2002	Childcare	July 2003

3.5 The introduction of administrative procedures for the compilation of statistics on divorce to an international standard

It has been decided, as part of the programme for the modernisation of the civil registration system, to establish a registry for divorces. This should facilitate the compilation of statistics on divorce in due course. However, the modernisation programme is proceeding more slowly than originally planned and the CSO is endeavouring to ensure that the necessary information is included from the outset.

3.6 The conduct of a Census of Population in 2001 following extensive consultation with users, the advance piloting of any changes, and the full use of modern technology

An extensive canvass of users was undertaken in early 1999 and a pilot test was conducted in September 1999 to test a number of new questions and to examine the possibility of using mail back as an option in collecting the completed forms. On the basis of the pilot test and further consultations, new questions on disability, carers, Irish travellers, nationality, PC ownership and internet access were included in the census. Results from the mail back were encouraging but it was decided that further testing would be required before it could be introduced.

The restrictions caused by the Foot and Mouth alert in early 2001 necessitated the deferral of the census from April 2001. The rescheduled census took place on April 28, 2002. Preliminary headcount results were published in July 2002 and the processing of the detailed questionnaires was completed in March 2003 using scanning and recognition technology. Building on the new technology, a dissemination schedule has been agreed with the Board that envisages the detailed Census volumes being published considerably more quickly than for previous censuses. In addition, for the first time, all published tables will be accessible in a user-friendly format on the CSO website. The publication schedule for the census is given in Table 2.

Table 2 Publication of 1996 and 2002 Census of Population reports

Volume	1996 Census	Plan for 2002 Census
Principal demographic results	July 1997	June 2003
Population classified by area	August 1997	July 2003
Ages and marital status	October 1997	July 2003
Household composition and family units	November 1997	August 2003
Principal socio-economic results	April 1998	September 2003
Usual residence, migration, birthplace and nationalities	December 1997	October 2003
Principal economic status and industries	June 1998	November 2003
Occupations	August 1998	December 2003
Education and qualifications	September 1998	January 2004
Irish traveller community		January 2004
Travel to work, school and college	July 1998	February 2004
Disability and unpaid help		March 2004
Irish language	December 1998	March 2004
Religion		April 2004
Housing		April 2004

3.7 Development of social statistics

In its last Progress Report, the Board recognised that a comprehensive long-term strategy was needed to develop the social statistics required to support policy formulation and to monitor progress on achieving agreed social and equality outcomes. In consultation with the Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion, the Board established a Steering Group to undertake a scoping study to examine data requirements and data sources in a comprehensive manner across a wide range of Government Departments and Agencies. The Steering Group issued its Report² in April 2003 and put forward a vision for social statistics which includes:

- ◆ A collectively agreed national framework for social and equality statistics which delivers a comprehensive picture of Irish society and its diversity;
- ◆ Systematic identification of the data required by the public sector and by society in order to track change, identify issues, plan policy, and monitor progress;
- ◆ Methods which deliver the required statistics at high quality, least cost and with due regard for data protection; and
- ◆ Effective use of social statistics to inform policy and assist planning.

The Government accepted the main thrust of the report and has taken decisions which will enable the development of social statistics to be undertaken on a much firmer basis than previously.

² NSB (2003), "Developing Irish Social and Equality Statistics to meet Policy Needs", Stationery Office, Dublin

Board's Comment

The Board acknowledges the considerable improvement in the coverage and timeliness of social statistics being produced by the CSO. In addition, the work being undertaken to develop the potential of administrative records should, in time, further broaden the coverage of social statistics. The successful application of scanning technology to the processing of the 2002 Census of Population represents a major achievement by the CSO. Faster data capture has facilitated the more timely dissemination of the volumes common to both the 1996 and 2002 censuses. It has also enabled the rapid publication of the additional four volumes arising from the more detailed 2002 census questionnaire.

The scoping study report into the emerging needs for social statistics also recommended that the CSO prepare a preliminary national progress indicators report. This recommendation was consistent with an earlier NESC report on national progress indicators. The Board welcomes the consultative approach being taken by the CSO to get broad agreement on which indicators really determine whether Ireland is making sustainable progress in the economic, social and environmental domains.

Under the Statistics Act, 1993, the CSO has lodged anonymised microdata, from the main social surveys undertaken by the CSO, with the Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA). The Board welcomes this and other initiatives, such as the development of the CSO website, that encourage and facilitate usage of official statistics.

Chapter

4

Business Statistics

4.1 *General review*

The Board strategy identified the need to improve timeliness across a range of business statistics and to fill data gaps in respect of the services sector, which has accounted for a very large proportion of the growth in employment and economic activity. The CSO has made significant progress in these areas in recent years. Over the course of this strategy, the information society has led to new information needs; and the CSO has conducted surveys of enterprise ICT usage in October 2002 and in March 2003.

The Office is continuing to adapt its survey management systems to more closely monitor the statistical burden on businesses. The annual Census of Industrial Production, the PRODCOM survey and the monthly industrial inquiry have been integrated, using a *process* approach to data collection and analysis. This will be further embedded with the implementation of the ICT plan and the further development of a comprehensive business register.

4.2 *The implementation of the new EU annual structural and short-term business statistics and short-term statistics Regulations (Council Regulations 58/97 and 1165/98 respectively) with priority on the expansion in the range of statistics available for the Services sector*

The requirements for more detailed structural statistics on the services sector have been met by the Annual Services Inquiry. This inquiry has been steadily improved, with statistics available at NUTS II regional level since 1999 and an increase in sample size to improve sectoral coverage since 2001. Timeliness has also improved considerably, with the 2001 results available within 18 months of the reference year.

The NACE Rev. 1 economic activity classification was applied to the Retail Sales Index, the monthly Industrial Production Inquiry and the quarterly Employment, Earnings and Hours Worked series in conjunction with rebasing the series to base 1995=100. In addition, the Quarterly Stocks and Investment Inquiries were extended to meet the Regulation requirements. Subsequently, all the main timeliness targets for short-term business statistics were met in 2001, including improvements arising from the EMU Action Plan and the IMF data dissemination standards. These included the availability of industrial production statistics within two months and quarterly industrial earnings data within three months. Work is ongoing to introduce a series on industrial orders during 2003 and to introduce a new survey of output in the construction sector.

4.3 *The expansion of short-term earnings series to cover all sectors of the economy*

The CSO is planning a new quarterly survey of earnings, hours and employment costs which will be phased in on a sectoral basis, starting in the second half of 2003. The survey will address the need for economy-wide statistics on earnings, as identified in the Board strategy. It will also meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 450/2003, for quarterly labour cost statistics. The CSO intends that the new quarterly survey will also provide structural information that was previously available only every four years from the Labour Costs Survey.

The National Employment Survey is being undertaken in 2003. This new survey of employers and employees will provide new information on the factors that determine the level of earnings. Information of this kind was previously collected in the Structure of Earnings Survey.

In developing these new surveys, the CSO has maintained close contact with the Earnings Statistics Liaison Group, set up in 2001, and with key data suppliers.

4.4 The improved timeliness of business statistics

Some improvements in timeliness have already been mentioned in Section 4.2. In addition, an early global estimate of industrial production is compiled within six weeks of the reference month and the provisional Retail Sales Index is available within seven weeks. Quarterly statistics on tourism and travel are available within 13 weeks and there have been considerable improvements in respect of monthly vehicle licensing data, with the publication time reduced from 13 to three weeks. On the other hand, there was some slippage in major annual publications (including the Annual Services Inquiry, PRODCOM inquiry, and the Census of Industrial Production) while survey systems were being re-engineered but the losses of timeliness in these areas have now been regained. Appendix 4 contains full details of the progress that has been made in timeliness and the challenges that remain.

4.5 The conduct of a Census of Agriculture

The June 2000 Census of Agriculture was conducted by post, giving rise to considerable expenditure savings (about €1.9m) by comparison with the traditional local enumeration approach. The census register was primarily constructed from Department of Agriculture and Food registers, availing of the considerable advances made by the department in recent years to create a register of farmers. The Census of Agriculture achieved a response rate of 93% and administrative data was used to impute for full and partial non-response. The main report from the Census of Agriculture was published in December 2002.

Board's Comment

The Board welcomes the availability of more statistics on the services sector and notes the need to continue to monitor developments and data needs in this area. The development of surveys on the information society is also welcomed and the Board is encouraged by the implementation of the National Employment Survey and the CSO's strategy for economy-wide quarterly earnings and labour cost statistics.

The Board is pleased to see ongoing progress in implementing the process approach to business statistics and the embedding of the computer systems needed to increase productivity, continue to improve the timeliness and quality of data, and to closely monitor the response burden on businesses.

The successful use of administrative registers to conduct the 2000 Census of Agriculture represents a significant development and illustrates the potential for making greater statistical use of administrative data sources. The Board will address the issue of the potential of administrative records more fully in its next Strategy.

Chapter

5

Other Statistical Issues

5.1 General review

This Section examines a number of statistical areas where the Board identified specific actions.

5.2 *A more active CSO role in improving environmental statistics in co-operation with the relevant departments and agencies*

The CSO is represented in the Steering Group on Sustainable Indicators chaired by the Department of the Environment and Local Government. The purpose of this Group is to exchange information and to develop a more comprehensive body of environmental statistics. The CSO has also been involved in the compilation of environment satellite accounts as part of the system of national accounts (NAMEA). Environmental accounts for Ireland covering the period 1994-2000 were compiled by the ESRI, in association with the CSO, and published in February 2003.

5.3 *Collaboration by the CSO with relevant departments and agencies in the publication of a more comprehensive and coherent body of energy statistics*

The CSO and Sustainable Energy Ireland established a joint Energy Statistics Co-Ordinating Group in early 2002. The remit of the group is to examine the requirements for data on energy consumption and to help to develop new and existing statistical sources in this respect in relation to industry, services, transport, agriculture and the household sector. The group is involved in analysing a number of existing CSO data sources and is also developing proposals that could lead to the collection of additional information in a number of existing surveys.

5.4 *Continued liaison with Forfás on R&D and innovation statistics*

The CSO has continued to participate actively in the Fios Advisory Committee on Science and Technology Indicators, chaired by Forfás, which has statutory responsibility for producing Ireland's science and technology statistics.

5.5 *Continued priority on minimising the statistical reporting burden on businesses, especially SMEs*

The CSO has undertaken a number of initiatives to reduce the statistical reporting burden on industry. These initiatives include developing the CSO Business Register to allow greater monitoring of the response burden across surveys. The Census of Industrial Production questionnaire was redesigned to more closely correspond with the typical layout of company accounts. The CSO has offered to accept monthly management accounts instead of monthly production and turnover returns. Where possible, sample inquiries and reporting thresholds are used to avoid including all businesses in the survey. CSO field-staff assist businesses that require help in the completion of the returns. The CSO has also modified how it manages business surveys so as to be able to better monitor the response burden on individual companies.

5.6 The establishment of user liaison groups for the main statistical subject matter areas by the end of 1998

User Liaison Groups have been established in the following areas:

- ◆ Agriculture statistics;
- ◆ Census of Population Advisory Group;
- ◆ Earnings statistics;
- ◆ Labour Market statistics; and
- ◆ Macroeconomic statistics, including External Trade and Prices.

Memberships of these groups is listed in Appendix 3. In addition, the CSO has convened advisory groups to develop social modules in the QNHS and there are standing consultative committees with a number of public bodies (Department of Finance, Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Central Bank, etc.). Liaison Groups have not been as effective on an ongoing basis as had been initially hoped. The Board considers that it may be more effective to involve users more intensively in specific tasks, such as advising on the formulation of specific QNHS survey modules. The next Board strategy will outline Board plans to develop more formal collaboration between statistical producers and more consultation with a wider group of users on a regular basis.

5.7 The finalisation of arrangements to give researchers access to anonymised Census of Population microdata

Section 34 of the Statistics Act, 1993 allows the CSO to provide anonymised microdata to researchers from surveys of households and individuals under special contractual arrangements. Microdata from the QNHS, the HBS, and the 1996 COP were lodged with the ISSDA in the second half of 2001. The records were anonymised by removing identifiable information and by recoding variables such as occupation and industry so as to reduce the risk of indirect identification to a negligible level.

Board's Comment

The Board welcomes the more active involvement of the CSO in environment and energy statistics. The Board hopes that this involvement can be continued particularly through the implementation of the SGSES report and the production of a national progress indicators report. The development of the ISSDA should result in further value being added, through detailed research, to the participating CSO surveys. In the last five years, the burden on business and domestic respondents has increased significantly. There is a consequential onus on producers of statistics to ensure that they encourage, and facilitate, maximum use to be made of the resulting survey data by making it available in formats that permit more in-depth analysis.

Chapter

6

**CSO Organisational
Developments**

6.1 General review

A key to improving the quality of official statistics lies in the organisational capability and efficiency of the CSO. This is recognised in the Board's emphasis on the importance of organisational developments in the CSO. This chapter summarises developments in CSO strategic planning, Partnership, PMDS, IT and customer service during the period of the strategy.

6.2 The full implementation of the Government's Strategic Management Initiative (SMI) modernisation programme in the CSO

The CSO's *Statement of Strategy 2001-2003* was implemented through Local Business Programmes (LBPs) and Divisional Action Programmes (DAPs). The LBPs specify objectives, targets, timetables, and appropriate performance indicators. They form the basis for implementation of the Performance Management and Development System for all staff. Progress on the implementation of these LBPs is incorporated into DAPs for ongoing monitoring at Divisional and Directorate levels.

A Partnership Committee was established in January 1999. This Committee is representative of management, unions and staff and its purpose is to engage staff at all levels in the Civil Service modernisation process. The Partnership Committee has played an active role in monitoring and reviewing progress on the CSO Statement of Strategy. The Committee also agreed the report to the Civil Service Quality Assurance Group (CSQAG) outlining the progress made in achieving the performance indicators outlined in the CSO Statement of Strategy 2001-2003.

The programme for the rollout of the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) in the Office was implemented successfully during 2001. All staff have completed PMDS training. Resources amounting to 4% of payroll were devoted to training and development of staff in 2002. A training programme for management grades, to improve their managerial and leadership skills, was also implemented.

6.3 The development of the CSO IT function to maximise efficiencies and produce added value to statistical products

In 1999, the CSO began the process of migrating from a centralised mainframe-based computer network to a PC-based client-server architecture. Lotus Notes groupware was made available to all staff during 2000. IT was aligned more closely with the business needs. An integrated data management system is being developed, including the establishment of a data warehouse and a web-enabled dissemination database. The CSO IT strategy will enable the CSO to make full use of internet technologies in the acquisition and dissemination of information.

Other significant IT developments include:

- ◆ All IT systems were made year 2000 compliant and adapted to handle the euro;
- ◆ Scanning technology was introduced into four tourism surveys and the Census of Population;
- ◆ Since 1999, electronic copies of all statistical releases are simultaneously released on the CSO website and online access to the CSO Data Bank and other databases has also been made available;

- ◆ A Secure Deposit Box was established in 2002 which allows respondents to lodge data electronically over a secure link;
- ◆ A formal project management approach has been adopted for all major CSO projects;
- ◆ A small eGovernment division was created in 2001 to champion developments in this area; and
- ◆ Electronic versions of most CSO questionnaires were made available on the CSO website during 2001/2002.

6.4 The implementation of the CSO's Customer Service Plan

In late 1998, the CSO published a Customer Service Plan covering the period 1998-1999. A further plan, for the period 2001-2003, was published in June 2001. Much has been achieved on the customer service front through the implementation of these plans. With regard to the external customer, the achievements include: a considerably improved website; the development of the Eirestat Spreadsheet Service to give users web access to all the main CSO statistical series; new releases and new publications. *Ireland North and South, A Statistical Profile* was produced in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA); and a redesigned and enhanced Statistical Yearbook of Ireland was launched in 2001. A comprehensive survey of CSO users was undertaken in 2002 and the resulting report will influence the next Customer Service Plan. In general, the CSO has fully adopted a customer/dissemination based approach to statistical output. In 1998, the first year of this strategy, the CSO hosted a Conference of European Statisticians "Work Session on Statistical Output for Dissemination to Information Media". Conferences such as these provide an invaluable opportunity for CSO staff to examine the practices of leading National Statistical Institutes.

6.5 The implementation of the organisational change recommended in the 1997 consultancy report commissioned by the Board

The report commissioned by the Board in 1997, and undertaken by Deloitte and Touche, recommended two main organisational change efforts. One related to the need for structural change, away from the "Product Model" and towards the "Process Model"; the second was a set of recommendations relating to the use and deployment of IT.

The "Process Model" allows a greater focus to be given to the core organisational processes in terms of management, core skills, economies of scale, and IT requirements. It also gives opportunities to minimise the response burden. Elements of the model are in place in a number of areas in the office. An important advance in this context occurred during 2001 when the monthly industrial production survey, the annual PRODCOM survey, and the annual Census of Industrial Production, which were previously managed separately, were reorganised in a more co-ordinated way. The deepening of this approach will also assist in giving a greater focus on analysis.

The consultancy report made a number of recommendations relating to the better planning and use of IT. All of the recommendations have been addressed and a number of them have been achieved. An effective business register system has been put in place – although work remains to be done to improve the quality of the information on the register. An IT Strategy was developed and the first phase has been very successfully implemented. The Office went to tender in mid-2003 to implement the final phase (which is likely to take up to 2006 to complete).

Board's Comment

The Board congratulates the CSO on the significant organisational developments that have taken place during the period of the current strategy. The implementation of SMI has been a key driver in modernising the human resources aspects of the CSO and in introducing a performance and staff development driven culture. Implementation of the new IT strategy is well underway and the Board acknowledges the clarity of the CSO objectives and implementation strategy. The CSO website has greatly facilitated more widespread dissemination of CSO statistics, particularly through the availability of releases and the option for users to download a wide range of statistical series. The publication of the North-South statistical profile, and the new style Statistical Yearbook, has also enhanced the wider availability of official statistics. The role of the CSO in stimulating discussion on the future role and needs for statistics is also to be welcomed. A particular example was the hosting of the seminar *Statistics in the New Millennium* to mark the CSO's 50 years celebrations in 1999.

Chapter

7

**Issues Considered
by the Board in 2002**

7.1 Introduction

The Board met on ten occasions during 2002. One of these meetings was held in Cork and this provided the Board with an opportunity to meet with the CSO Partnership Group. The key issues discussed by the Board during 2002 are reviewed in this chapter.

7.2 Environment and energy statistics

The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) produces an extensive range of statistics. Building upon this work and also statistics from the Sustainable Energy Ireland, the ESRI and the CSO have published environmental accounts for Ireland. The Board has also encouraged the CSO to take an active role in direct data collection to supplement the existing information that is available. A number of environment-related questions have been included in QNHS modules and in the 2002 Census of Population.

Other CSO work, on developing a key set of national progress indicators and in developing the potential of administrative records, also incorporate identifying and meeting environmental data needs.

7.3 CSO IT strategy implementation plan

The Deloitte and Touche report in May 1997 highlighted the need to improve the planning, use and deployment of IT within the CSO. The CSO is currently in the process of migrating from a mainframe processing environment to an Open Systems PC network environment. This transition is being achieved in two main stages:

- ◆ A requirements specification and high-level design stage; and
- ◆ A subsequent detailed design and build stage.

The first stage resulted in a detailed description of the current system, which generated a valuable set of corporate documents. Over one hundred survey applications were identified and described. The second stage was put to tender in May 2003. During this stage generic survey applications will be written so that CSO surveys will be processed using a minimum suite of corporate applications. For example, generic editing programs will be applied across all the surveys. This will save in IT development time and enable staff to become effective quickly if they are reassigned to other surveys.

7.4 Strategy for social statistics

In its Progress Report 2001³, the Board formally recognised that a comprehensive long-term strategy was needed to develop the social statistics required to support policy formulation and to monitor progress on achieving agreed social and equality outcomes.

As a first step towards developing this long-term strategy, the Board, in consultation with the Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion, proposed that a study be undertaken to determine:

- ◆ The scope of expected or likely requirements for social and equality statistics; and
- ◆ The extent to which these are being met, or could be met, by existing statistical surveys and administrative records.

³ National Statistics Board, 2002, *Implementation of Strategy for Statistics, 1998-2002: Progress Report 2001*, Stationery Office, Dublin

To undertake the study, a Steering Group on Social and Equality Statistics (SGSES) was established, comprising key policy and statistical staff in relevant government departments, CSO staff, and experts with experience in analysing social data in Ireland from a range of perspectives.

The following Terms of Reference were assigned to the Steering Group:

1. *To review existing and proposed social indicators and measures in terms of their content, data requirements and ability to meet current demands for social and equality statistics.*
2. *To identify and evaluate existing statistical surveys and administrative data in relation to their comprehensiveness, comparability with other sources, coverage, timeliness, accessibility, etc.*
3. *To determine what would be required to enhance the usefulness of data from different administrative sources in generating social and equality statistics.*
4. *To examine what would be required to allow integrated analyses of data from different statistical and administrative sources and how such new analyses could be best disseminated.*
5. *To identify current gaps in social and equality statistics and how these should be met, having regard to the priorities of, and resource implications for, stakeholders.*
6. *To develop a framework for social and equality statistics that can meet future policy needs arising from new social and equality policy developments.*

The Board were regularly informed of the work of the Group through progress reports at Board meetings and through direct involvement – the Board chairperson chaired the SGSES group and the Board also provided secretarial assistance.

As mentioned in Section 3.7, the Board published the Steering Group's report in April 2003². Implementation of the report is already underway. As an initial step, the CSO has identified six government departments for further more detailed work. Six CSO teams, working in conjunction with department staff, are examining the statistical potential of the administrative records held in each of these departments. These teams are due to complete their analyses by the end of July 2003.

In addition, the NSB has asked the CSO to prepare a preliminary national progress indicators report. This initial report will serve as a reference point for discussions between the main users and producers of key economic and social statistics.

7.5 NSB survey of CSO users 2002

In order to determine the adequacy of the present system from the perspective of users, the Board undertook a survey of a representative group of key users of official statistics. The users were invited to comment on the present system and on progress made since the last user survey in 1997. They were also asked to identify the changes and improvements they would wish to see implemented over the next three to five years.

The results of the survey were published in January 2003⁵. The responses from users were, in the main, positive. They identified many significant improvements, since the last survey, in the service provided by the CSO. As such, the results are very encouraging and indicate the added

⁵ NSB (2003): "Survey of CSO Users 2002", Stationery Office, Dublin

value that has been obtained from the increased resources devoted to developing the statistical system over this period. There was a clear perception of a significant improvement by the CSO in the delivery of services; in timeliness; and in its capacity to meet the changing requirements of users. There are many suggestions for improvements and these mostly revolved around: further development of the CSO website; access to small area statistics and anonymised microdata sets; more statistics on the new economy and social areas; and more interpretation by the CSO of its statistics. Progress has already been made on some of these suggestions by the CSO and the Board will consider the more strategic proposals in the context of the 2003-2008 strategy.

7.6 *Next Board strategy*

The preparation of the 2003-2008 Board strategy was the main topic of Board discussions during the second-half of 2002. The Board gave lengthy consideration to the changes that had taken place in Ireland, internationally and in the use of ICT in the interval since the previous 1998-2002 strategy was published. The Board has decided to adopt a very different strategic approach in the 2003-2008 strategy.

In the Board's view, the scale of national and international contextual changes is such that it is no longer in Ireland's interests to conceive of developments in statistics in an incremental way. Previous Board strategies focused largely on meeting Ireland's needs for statistics through expanding and developing the statistical series produced by the CSO, taking particular account of developments within the EU statistical system. This approach served the needs of earlier periods well and resulted in many major developments being undertaken by the CSO in both the social and economic spheres. However, many government departments and agencies now manage significant data sources that could potentially contribute to meeting the needs of users. In addition, these organisations commission statistical research that should also be considered part of official statistics.

The Board proposes to look at a broader framework for statistics and to adopt a collaborative approach to the compilation of official statistics in Ireland. Such an approach would involve all of those engaged in the process of generating statistics within the departments and agencies of state and those who depend crucially on them. Critical to the success of this broader approach is the extension of explicit standards for statistics, based on the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, to all areas of official statistics including those based on administrative sources. The Board hopes to publish the new strategy during July 2003 and also to make it available on the new Board website, www.nsb.ie.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Board Functions under the Statistics Act, 1993

Section 10 - Functions of Central Statistics Office:

1. The functions of the Office shall be the collection, compilation, extraction and dissemination for statistical purposes of information relating to economic, social and general activities and conditions in the State.
2. The Office shall have authority to co-ordinate official statistics compiled by public authorities to ensure, in particular, adherence to statistical standards and the use of appropriate classifications.
3. The Office shall have authority to assess the statistical potential of the records maintained by public authorities and, in conjunction with them, to ensure that this potential is realised in so far as resources permit.

Section 19 - Function of National Statistics Board

Section 19 of the Statistics Act, 1993 describes the functions of the Board:

1. The function of the National Statistics Board in guiding, with the agreement of the Taoiseach, the strategic direction of the Office shall include in particular –
 - (a) establishing priorities for the compilation and development of official statistics;
 - (b) assessing the resources of staff, equipment and finance that should be made available for the compilation of official statistics;
 - (c) arbitrating, subject to the final decision of the Taoiseach, on any conflicts which may arise between the Office and other public authorities relating to the extraction of statistics from records or to the co-ordination of statistical activities.

Appendix 2 **Membership of the Board and Meetings in 2002**

The Board held ten meetings during 2002.

Board Members

Professor Frances P Ruane
Associate Professor of Economics, Trinity College Dublin (Chairperson)

Ms Paula Carey
Research Officer, Irish Congress of Trade Unions

Mr Frank Cunneen
Chairman, Health and Safety Authority

Mr Ciarán Dolan
General Secretary, Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association

Ms Mary Doyle
Assistant Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach

Ms Helen NicFhlannchadha
Secondary School Teacher, Dublin

Mr Cathal O'Loghlin
Assistant Secretary, Department of Finance

Mr Donal Garvey
Director General, Central Statistics Office (ex officio member)

Secretary to the Board:

Mr John O'Hagan (Senior Statistician, CSO) until May 2002

Mr Gerry Brady (Senior Statistician, CSO) from May 2002.

Appendix 3 **Membership of Statistics Liaison Groups**

The membership reflects the position at December 2002. The CSO provides the secretariat for each group.

Agricultural Statistics Liaison Group

Secretary: Carol Duffy

Ms Sinead McPhillips	Department of Agriculture and Food
Mr Liam Connolly	Teagasc
Mr Ciarán Dolan	Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
Mr David Eiffe	An Bord Bia
Mr James Kelly	Macra na Feirme
Mr Con Lucey	Irish Farmers Association
Mr Seamus O'Donoghue	Irish Co-Operative Organisation Society

CSO staff: Tom McMahon, Jane Lenehan, Keith McSweeney, Gregg Patrick, Gillian Wall

Census of Population Advisory Group

Secretary: Francis McCann

Ms Frances Ball	Department of Environment and Local Government
Ms Siobhan Barron	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
Mr Laurence Bond	Equality Authority
Ms Paula Carey	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Professor Pat Clancy	University College Dublin
Mr David Croughan	Irish Business and Employers Confederation
Mr Pat Lynch	Department of Social and Family Affairs
Ms Marie Mackle	Department of Finance
Mr James McBride	Irish Social Science Data Archive
Ms Mary O'Brien	National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Mr Muiris O'Connor	Department of Education and Science
Mr Ronan O'Reilly	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Ms Ciara O'Shea	Department of Health and Children
Professor Jerry Sexton	Economic and Social Research Institute
Mr George Shaw	Department of the Taoiseach
Mr Owen Shinkwin	Dublin Transportation Office
Mr James Stone	Midland Regional Authority

CSO staff: Gerry O'Hanlon, Aidan Punch, Gerry Walker, Nora Scott, Damien Malone, Pat Thornberry

Earnings Statistics Liaison Group

Secretary: Tony Kelleher

Mr Noel Cahill	National Economic and Social Council
Mr Mark Cassidy	Central Bank of Ireland
Ms Kathleen Connolly	Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform
Mr Jim Curran	Irish Small and Medium Enterprises
Mr David Duffy	Economic and Social Research Institute
Professor Patrick T Geary	National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Mr George Hennessy	Construction Industry Federation (CIF)
Mr Aebhric McGibney	Irish Business and Employers Confederation
Mr John McGrath	FÁS
Ms Avine McNally	Small Firms Association
Mr Barra O'Murchadha	Department of Finance
Mr Manus O'Riordan	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr Ronan O'Reilly	Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment

CSO staff: Joe Treacy, Ger Healy, Bernadette Cabry, Mairéad Coughlan, Margaret Kinsella

Labour Market Statistics Liaison Group

Secretary: Noel Ryan, Kieran O'Shea

Mr Laurence Bond	National Economic and Social Forum
Mr Brian Carroll	Department of Finance
Mr Gerry Cribbin	Department of the Taoiseach
Mr Sean Halpin	Department of Social and Family Affairs
Mr Colm Harmon	National University of Ireland, Dublin
Ms Noeleen Hartigan	Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
Mr Aebhric McGibney	Irish Business and Employers Confederation
Mr John McGrath	FÁS
Ms Marie Mackle	Department of Finance
Dr Philip O'Connell	Economic and Social Research Institute
Ms AnnMarie O'Connor	National Economic and Social Council
Ms Julia O'Malley	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Dr Donal O'Neill	National University of Ireland, Maynooth

CSO staff: Gerry O'Hanlon, Pdraig Dalton, Nicola Tickner

Macroeconomic Statistics Liaison Group

Secretary: Michelle Butler

Mr Noel Cahill	National Economic and Social Council
Mr Gerry Cribbin	Department of the Taoiseach
Mr David Croughan	Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC)
Professor John FitzGerald	Economic and Social Research Institute
Mr John Frain	Central Bank of Ireland
Mr Austin Hughes	Irish Intercontinental Bank
Dr Anthony Leddin	University of Limerick
Mr Manus O'Riordan	Services, Industrial, Professional, Technical Union
Mr Michael McGrath	Department of Finance

CSO staff: Bill Keating, Mick Lucey

Appendix 4 Publication Timeliness

The Board's 1995 Annual Report contained a table giving the timeliness (lag from end of the reference period) for statistical releases and publications issued by the CSO. This information is repeated here along with the timeliness for 2002 to enable a comparison to be made. Information is given here only for regular surveys that are undertaken annually or more frequently.

Publication	Timeliness in 1995	Timeliness in 2002
Macroeconomic Statistics		
Balance of Payments (<i>quarterly</i>)	22 weeks	15 weeks
International Investment Position ¹ (<i>annual</i>)	n/a	52 weeks
Annual National Accounts		
Summary Results (<i>annual</i>)	26 weeks	40 weeks
Publication (<i>annual</i>)	28 weeks	49 weeks
Quarterly National Accounts ¹ (<i>quarterly</i>)	n/a	17 weeks
Regional Accounts ¹ (<i>annual</i>)	n/a	25 months
Household Accounts ¹ (<i>annual</i>)	n/a	25 months
External Trade		
Release (<i>monthly</i>)		
Extra-EU	10 weeks	6 weeks
Total	20 weeks	12 weeks
Publication (<i>monthly</i>)	32 weeks	16 weeks
Labour Market		
Live Register ²		
Analysis ¹ (<i>monthly</i>)	n/a	10 days
Age by Duration (<i>half-yearly</i>)	11 weeks	6 weeks
Industrial Disputes (<i>quarterly</i>)	17 weeks	12 weeks
Labour Force Survey/QNHS (<i>quarterly</i>)	26 weeks	13 weeks
Prices		
CPI (<i>monthly</i>)	28 days	8-18 days
WPI ³ (<i>monthly</i>)	28 days	23 days
Vital Statistics		
Release (<i>quarterly</i>)	24 weeks	17 weeks
Publication (<i>annual</i>)	48 months	23 months
Population/Migration Estimates (April) (<i>annual</i>)	26 weeks	17 weeks
Irish Babies Names ¹ (<i>annual</i>)	n/a	26 weeks
Industry		
Production (<i>monthly</i>)		
Production and Turnover ¹	n/a	8 weeks
Early Global Estimate ¹	n/a	6 weeks
Stocks ¹ (<i>quarterly</i>)	n/a	19 weeks
Capital Assets ¹ (<i>quarterly</i>)	n/a	19 weeks
Employment, Final (<i>quarterly</i>)	17 weeks	13 weeks
Earnings & Hours (<i>quarterly</i>)	21 weeks	13 weeks
CIP Release		
Local unit (<i>annual</i>)	34 months	20 months
Enterprise (<i>annual</i>)	41 months	20 months
Early estimate ¹ (<i>annual</i>)	n/a	14 months

¹ not applicable: new release since 1995

² Three Live Register releases were consolidated into one analysis with effect from March 2002

³ The disimprovement in the WPI timeliness is temporary (due to rebasing).

Publication	Timeliness in 1995	Timeliness in 2002
CIP publication (<i>annual</i>)	31 months	23 months
PRODCOM ¹ (<i>annual</i>)	n/a	12 months
Building		
Employment (<i>monthly</i>)	4 weeks	8 weeks
Earnings (<i>quarterly</i>)	24 weeks	11 weeks
Planning Permissions (<i>quarterly</i>)	16 weeks	25 weeks
Census (<i>annual</i>)	21 months	29 months
Services		
Financial Services		
Employment/Earnings (<i>quarterly</i>)	12 weeks	30 weeks
Public Sector		
Employment (<i>quarterly</i>)	17 weeks	21 weeks
Earnings (<i>quarterly</i>)	17 weeks	21 weeks
Earnings: Distribution & Services ¹ (<i>quarterly</i>)	n/a	18 weeks
Labour Cost Survey ¹ (<i>quadrennial</i>)	n/a	19 months
Retail Sales Index		
Provisional (<i>monthly</i>)	8 weeks	7 weeks
Final (<i>monthly</i>)		11 weeks
Service Inquiries (<i>annual</i>)	34 months	39 months
Tourism & Travel (<i>quarterly</i>)	13 weeks	18 weeks
Tourism & Travel (<i>annual</i>)	22 weeks	20 weeks
Road Freight Inquiry (<i>annual</i>)	18 months	12 months
Statistics of Port Traffic (<i>annual</i>)	35 weeks	39 weeks
Vehicle Licensing		
Final (<i>monthly</i>)	12 weeks	3 weeks
Annual (<i>annual</i>)	30 weeks	6 weeks
Agriculture		
Prices		
Inputs/Outputs (<i>monthly</i>)	8 weeks	8 weeks
Preliminary Estimates ¹ (<i>annual</i>)	n/a	-32 days
Fishery ¹ (<i>annual</i>)	n/a	12 months
Land Sales ¹ (<i>quarterly</i>)	n/a	25 weeks
Output, Input, Income (<i>annual</i>)		
December Estimates	-4 weeks	-3 weeks
January Estimates	4 weeks	5 weeks
Final Estimates	30 weeks	26 weeks
Regional Accounts	n/a	48 weeks
June Survey ⁴ (<i>annual</i>)		
Provisional	13 weeks	20 weeks
Final	13 months	8 months
Labour	18 months	10 months
Crop Production (<i>annual</i>)	35 weeks	30 weeks
Livestock Survey (<i>annual</i>)	9 weeks	9 weeks
Pig Survey, 1 June (<i>annual</i>)	6 weeks	5 weeks
Milk Statistics (<i>monthly</i>)	2 weeks	6 weeks
Slaughterings (<i>monthly</i>)	4 weeks	4 weeks
Supply Balances (<i>annual</i>)		
Meat	48 weeks	39 weeks
Milk ¹	n/a	35 weeks
Cereals ¹	n/a	35 weeks

⁴ The June 2000 final results were based from the completed Census of Agriculture.

