

# **Standard Report on Methods and Quality for Live Register Age by Duration**

This documentation applies to the reporting period:

**2009**

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## 1 Overview

The Live Register Age by Duration is a bi-annual release derived from the Live Register, which comprises persons under 65 years of age who are claiming Jobseekers Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance and Other registrants (e.g. social welfare credits).

Data are compiled from administrative returns made to the CSO by the Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA) for each social welfare office relating to the last Friday in April and October<sup>1</sup>.

Data are presented by gender, claim type, detailed age group and detailed duration.

The Live Register Age by Duration is used as a short term indicator of labour market activity. In particular, while the number of persons on the Live Register is not the same as the number of people formally unemployed, the Live Register Age by Duration is taken as indicative of trends in unemployment. Particular value is drawn from the fact that the Live Register Age by Duration data are available in a very timely manner, four weeks after the reference day, whereas official unemployment figures as provided by the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), are not available until 10 weeks after the end of the reference quarter.

## 2 General Information

### 2.1 Statistical Category

Administrative data from the Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA).

### 2.2 Area of Activity

Labour Market Statistics

### 2.3 Organisational Unit Responsible, Persons to Contact

Labour Market & Earnings

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### 2.4 Objectives and Purpose; History

The objective is to maintain a short term timely series on the number of persons by age group and duration on the Live Register on a bi-annual basis. This then acts as a more detailed indicator of changes in unemployment than the monthly Live Register series. Live Register Age by Duration information is available from 1989 to date.

The reference period was traditionally the second last Friday of the relevant month, but this was changed in October 2009 when the results were taken from the same week as the monthly Live Register data series (last Friday of month).

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<sup>1</sup> The reference period was the second last Friday in April and October until this was changed to the last Friday starting in October 2009.

## **2.5 Periodicity**

Bi-annual count of persons on Live Register (April and October).

## **2.6 Client**

General national Requirement.

## **2.7 Users**

Any users with an interest in labour market statistics - including government, international institutions, national and local media, research institutions, community organisations etc.

## **2.8 Legal basis**

None.

# **3 Statistical Concepts, Methods**

## **3.1 Subject of the Statistics**

Live Register Age by Duration statistics are counts of the number of persons signing on to the Live Register each April and October. The data are used as a short term indicator in relation to changes in labour market activity, in particular unemployment, although Live Register data are not the official measures of unemployment, which is derived from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS).

## **3.2 Units of Observation/Collection Units/Units of Presentation**

Units of observations are persons under 65 years of age who are claiming Jobseekers Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance and Other registrants (e.g. social welfare credits).

Units of collections are local offices of Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA).

Data are presented in various groupings (e.g. sex, age group, scheme etc.)

## **3.3 Data Sources**

Live Register Age by Duration information is sourced from Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA). The initial data source is the local office where registrants sign on.

## **3.4 Reporting Unit/Respondents**

Not Applicable – Live Register Age by Duration involves the use of administrative data which is centrally compiled within the Department of Social & Family affairs and supplied to the CSO.

## **3.5 Type of Survey/Process**

Compilation is based on the use of administrative data which is amassed by the Department of Social and Family Affairs and submitted to the CSO for publication. The statistics are counts of the number of persons on the Live Register in April and October.

### **3.6 Characteristics of the Sample/Process**

#### **3.6.1 Population and Sampling Frame**

The population of interest is all persons under 65 years of age who are claiming Jobseekers Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance and Other registrants (e.g. social welfare credits) at local DSFA offices. As individuals must sign on to receive payments or credits, the Live Register Age by Duration provides a full count of the population of interest each April and October.

#### **3.6.2 Sampling Design**

It is a full census of Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA) local offices in the state.

#### **3.7 Survey Technique/Data Transfer**

Information is entered in each local office for every registrant. Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA) centrally compile an overall count of registrants from all of the local offices and then electronically transmit aggregated Live Register Age by Duration data to CSO on a bi-annual basis.

#### **3.8 Questionnaire (including explanations)**

No CSO questionnaire is used as data are sent to CSO in an agreed electronic format layout by Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA).

#### **3.9 Participation in the Survey**

It is agreed that the Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA) supply CSO with data on a bi-annual basis. The CSO has no interaction directly with either the local offices or the persons actually signing on to the Live Register.

#### **3.10 Characteristics of the Survey/Process and its Results**

Data are presented on bi-annual comparisons of Live Register figures, using gender, age groups, duration on the Live Register and geographic locations using an office level file which is received from Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA).

#### **3.11 Classifications used**

Sex

Detailed age groups

Scheme

NUTS (EU Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) regional groupings

See background notes in release for more information on categories in each classification used –

[http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/labour\\_market/current/lrabda.pdf](http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/labour_market/current/lrabda.pdf)

#### **3.12 Regional Breakdown of Results**

NUTS 3 regions

For further information on NUTS see –

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nuts/introduction\\_regions\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nuts/introduction_regions_en.html)

## **4 Production of the Statistics, Data Processing, Quality Assurance**

### **4.1 Data Capture**

Data are provided in excel format by Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA) twice yearly. This file is uploaded onto the CSO's network and used to produce release tables.

### **4.2 Coding**

Customised excel spreadsheets using the Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA) data are used to create aggregated geographic location outputs.

### **4.3 Data Editing**

Data are manually checked against monthly Live Register figures for the same month (although small differences will exist as reference week was not the same up until October 2009). Macro edits are used to check sub-totals and totals also. Actual amendments/corrections are rarely undertaken.

### **4.4 Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)**

Not Applicable – Live Register Age by Duration involves the use of administrative data.

### **4.5 Grossing and Weighting**

Not Applicable – Live Register Age by Duration involves the use of administrative data and all data are full counts of the number of persons on the Live Register according to the relevant classification.

### **4.6 Computation of Outputs, Estimation Methods Used**

Excel tables are used to create simple aggregates for output release tables.

### **4.7 Other Quality Assurance Techniques Used**

Constant contact with Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA) ensures timely and accurate reporting of data to CSO

## **5 Quality**

### **5.1 Relevance**

Wide usage across government departments and general public

### **5.2 Accuracy and Reliability**

#### **5.2.1. Sampling Effect & representivity**

Not Applicable – Live Register Age by Duration involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source. All local offices are included in the overall count (i.e. census of local offices).

## **5.2.2. Non-Sampling Effects**

### **5.2.2.1 Quality of the Data Sources used (other than survey register)**

Not Applicable – Live Register Age by Duration involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source. It involves the actual count of claimants and this is undertaken by the Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA).

### **5.2.2.2 Register Coverage**

Not Applicable – Live Register Age by Duration involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source.

### **5.2.2.3 Non-response (Unit and Item)**

Not Applicable – Live Register Age by Duration involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source.

### **5.2.2.4 Measurement Errors**

Not Applicable – Live Register Age by Duration involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source.

### **5.2.2.5 Processing Errors**

Processing errors are at a minimum as data are received in an excel file which is then formatted to produce release tables. Macro edit checks are also performed to compare data against monthly Live Register release.

### **5.2.2.6 Model-related Effects**

Not Applicable – Live Register Age by Duration involves the use of a fully representative administrative data source.

## **5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality**

### **5.3.1 Provisional Results**

Not Applicable – data are available T+4 weeks after the reference period.

### **5.3.2 Final Results**

Release is published within T+4 weeks after the reference period (i.e second last or last Friday of each April and October) which is within the publication schedule timelines.

## **5.4 Coherence**

Live Register Age by Duration results are taken as a short term indicator of movements in unemployment. As such the main source of similar information is the official estimate of unemployment as derived from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). However, the Live Register Age by Duration uses an administrative count of claimants and is not designed to measure unemployment directly. Therefore, while trends between official unemployment figures are analysed and trends are broadly similar full coherence in terms of total number of persons unemployed is not expected. A note is included on the Live Register Age by Duration release stating that Live Register data are not the official measures of unemployment to make this difference transparent to users.

## **5.5 Comparability**

The Live Register Age by Duration is a stand- alone set of figures and does not take into account changes in the labour force. International differences mean that Live Register Age by Duration data are not directly comparable to other countries.

## **5.6 Accessibility and Clarity**

### **5.6.1 Assistance to Users, Special Analyses**

Background notes are made available with each Live Register Age by Duration release.

### **5.6.2 Revisions**

Live Register Age by Duration involves the use of administrative data and revisions have not taken place in the series to-date.

### **5.6.3 Publications**

#### **5.6.3.1 Releases, Regular Publications**

Bi-Annual Live Register Age by Duration (web only).

#### **5.6.3.2 Statistical Reports**

Statistical Yearbook of Ireland.

#### **5.6.3.3 Internet**

Live Register Age by Duration latest release –

[http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/labour\\_market/current/lrabda.pdf](http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/labour_market/current/lrabda.pdf)

Live Register Age by Duration databank tables –

<http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/database/eirestat/Live%20Register/Live%20Register.asp>

### **5.6.4 Confidentiality**

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

## **6 Additional documentation and publications**

The entry for Live Register statistics under StatCentral (the portal to Ireland's official statistics) is at –

<http://www.statcentral.ie/viewStat.asp?id=164>

Monthly unemployment data and publication on unemployment across EU can also be found on Eurostat website –

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/>