



Appendix 8.5 Overview of trends in employment and unemployment in Dublin

In Appendix 8.5 we examine the recent developments in the labour force in the Dublin region, focusing particularly on employment and unemployment trends in the region as compared with other regions of the country. It is important to examine these trends so as to provide a background context for the development of large-scale new facilities such as the proposed National Stadium.

Appendix 8.5 is structured as follows: we begin by analysing the trend over the last five years in GDP and employment growth both nationally and by region; following this we examine the developments in unemployment over the last five years on a regional basis; we then go on to look at the overall growth in the labour force in Dublin compared with other regions; we then examine in more detail employment trends on a sectoral basis by region; finally we present some conclusions in relation to the pattern of economic development in the Dublin region and consider the implications that this may have for the development of large-scale facilities such as the proposed National Stadium.

Trends in GDP growth and employment creation

The performance of the Irish economy in recent years has been remarkable and this has been manifest both in terms of a very rapid growth in output as well as employment. Regional economic performance has, however, varied considerably. In Table 8.5A we examine the trend in Gross Value Added or output per person over the period 1992-1996 in Dublin and the other regions of the country.

Table 8.5A
Output (Gross Value Added) per Person
1992 - 1996 (IR£)

Region	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Average annual growth - 1992-1996 - %
Border	6,444	6,752	7,236	7,743	8,431	7.0
Dublin	10,162	10,898	12,122	13,342	14,592	9.5
Mid-East	5,356	5,610	6,764	8,905	9,096	14.2
Dublin plus Mid-East	9,000	9,601	10,798	12,243	13,234	10.1
Midlands	5,574	6,067	6,266	6,681	7,331	7.1
Mid-West	7,304	7,661	8,552	9,261	9,825	7.7
South-East	7,082	7,781	8,277	8,848	9,786	8.4
South-West	8,269	9,262	9,635	10,900	11,680	9.0
West	5,845	6,135	6,375	7,291	8,057	8.4
State	7,742	8,322	9,058	10,106	10,952	9.1

Source: CSO

In looking at the performance of different regions of the country it is important to note that this is an area where statistics in Ireland have traditionally been sparse, and although some progress has been made in recent years, data for output growth by region is only available up to 1996. Nevertheless, the figures in Table 8.5A show that the performance of the economy over the period 1992-1996 has been exceptional, with the growth in output per capita averaging 9.1 per cent on a compound annual basis bringing the level of output per head to £10,952 in 1996. There has been a considerable variation in the level and growth of output per capita across the regions, however. Dublin and the Mid-East have been the fastest growing regions of the country, with output per head expanding at an average annual rate of 9.5 per cent and 14.2 per cent respectively between 1992 and 1996. It is notable that output per capita in Dublin in 1996 (at £14,592) was 33% higher than the level for the State.

An analysis of the level and growth of employment by region over the period 1994-1998 is presented in Table 8.5B. The figures show that employment reached 1.49 million across the State in 1998, with employment in Dublin reaching 482,600. There has been a considerable variation in employment growth performance across the regions over the period 1994-1997. Employment creation has been fastest in the Mid-East region, where the level of employment increased at an average annual rate of 6.2 per cent over the period 1994-1997, while in Dublin the numbers at work grew by 4.5 per cent on average. The Border region experienced the poorest employment growth, at just 2.5 per cent on average over the period 1994-1997. This compares with an increase of 4.5 per cent on average across the State.

Table 8.5B
Total Employment by Region
1994-1998 (000's)

Region	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Average annual growth - 1994-97 - %*
Border	131.2	137.4	138.1	141.2	145.9	2.5
Dublin	377.8	386.9	415.3	430.9	482.6	4.5
Mid-East	119.1	125.1	133.5	142.8	156.2	6.2
Midlands	67.9	70.5	74.6	77.3	77.2	4.4
Mid-West	105.4	114.8	113.8	114.8	129.0	2.9
South-East	122.3	134.4	135.9	139.5	149.3	4.5
South-West	180.4	187.7	194.1	200.9	214.5	3.7
West	116.6	125	123.5	132.7	139.9	4.4
Ireland	1220.7	1281.8	1328.8	1380.1	1494.5	4.2

Source: CSO, Labour Force Surveys, 1994-1997; data for 1998 are from the Quarterly National Household Survey (March-May, 1998).

* Due to incomparability of 1998 QNHS data with earlier Labour Force data growth has been calculated over period 1994-1997 only.

Developments in Unemployment

Coinciding with the very fast employment growth recorded in recent years, unemployment has fallen substantially. In Table 8.5C we profile the trend in unemployment by region over the period 1994-1998. The figures indicate that the level of unemployment has fallen dramatically throughout the country over the period 1994-1998. Unemployment across the State was 7.8 per cent in 1998, compared with a level of 14.7 per cent in 1994 - a fall of 6.9 percentage points over four years. Unemployment has fallen fastest in the South-East and in Dublin. In Dublin the unemployment rate fell to 7.2 per cent from 15 per cent in 1994. In 1998 the lowest unemployment rate was recorded in the West region, at 6.6 per cent compared with 7.8 per cent for the State.

Table 8.5C
Regional Unemployment Trends
1994-1998 (%)

Region	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Border	14.6	11.4	15.1	11.8	10.4
Dublin	15.0	13.6	12.3	11.1	7.2
Mid-East	12.9	12.4	10.4	8.4	7.1
Midlands	13.7	10.9	9.7	9.5	8.0
Mid-West	13.3	9.1	9.0	10.0	6.9
West	14.0	10.1	11.5	9.7	6.6
South-East	17.7	13.1	12.5	11.3	9.7
South-West	15.1	12.5	11.8	9.1	7.9
State	14.7	12.2	11.9	10.3	7.8

Source: CSO, Labour Force Survey up to 1997, Quarterly National Household Survey in 1998.