
4.

Measuring Ireland's Progress

*Gerry O'Hanlon*¹

Introduction

The main purpose of this paper² is to discuss issues around the need for statistical indicators at national level; and to describe the institutional and political environment in Ireland which led to the publication of *Measuring Ireland's Progress* by the CSO in December 2003. I will also reflect on where the future role of the CSO might lie in the context of developing a set of broader statistical indicators that seek to incorporate more difficult-to-measure concepts such as sustainability and well-being.

The core business of National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) has always included the publication of key statistical indicators such as the Unemployment Rate or the Consumer Price Index. Measures such as these are developed according to statistical principles and definitions which are discussed and agreed at international level. In the years preceding the first issue of *Measuring Ireland's Progress* there was a huge increase in the demand for statistical indicators. Very often the indicators were specified without knowing whether the required data were available or feasible or useful for benchmarking the situation over time or across countries.

In the CSO we were concerned to try and put some kind of structure around the expectations that data for these indicators was readily

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² The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of CSO Senior Statistician Gerry Brady in the preparation of this paper.

available or could be developed. At the time, the National Statistics Board was in the process of developing a new strategy for statistics, focussing on statistical needs to support better evidence based policy making. The NSB was concerned that one of the consequences of the proliferation of demands for indicators could be that public resources were at risk of being diverted into sub-optimal data collection projects. Early in 2003, in the context of the publication of the NSB Report *Developing Irish Social and Equality Statistics to meet Policy Needs*, the Government decided that the CSO should publish a National Progress Indicators report.

Social Partnership and Statistics

In 2002 the NESC published two reports dealing with statistical indicators - the first was set in the context of benchmarking the progress of the *Programme for Prosperity and Fairness* (the Social Partnership agreement from 2000 - 2002) and proposed 20 headline indicators and 60 background indicators; the second was set in the context of sustainable development and proposed 18 headline indicators and 12 background indicators. These reports arose from a realisation by participants in the Social Partnership process that they needed some way of tracking the outcomes of Partnership agreements in terms of progress towards a more equal society.

The 2003 national Social Partnership agreement had a number of specific references to the CSO, one of which was a request to the CSO to develop a set of national progress indicators (see Appendix 1). This, in conjunction with the Government decision, was the basis on which the CSO developed *Measuring Ireland's Progress*.

Development of Measuring Ireland's Progress

As previously mentioned, there already existed many proposed indicator sets. It was decided that the CSO would adopt a fourfold approach to the development of the new report:

- To publish the report in two volumes. Volume 1 would contain the numbers and Volume 2 would constitute a separate Background Report outlining the conceptual framework that informed the selection of domains and indicators;
- That the CSO would independently select the set of indicators to be included in this first report according to this framework and indicator review;
- To describe the choices made as a preliminary set of key national progress indicators for Ireland and to invite feedback following publication in order to give users the opportunity to influence future publications; and
- To keep the NSB well briefed on progress. The Board was supportive and encouraging; and the Department of the Taoiseach was a particularly strong ally.

Conceptual Framework - Volume 2 Background Report

This report described the purpose of a set of indicators as providing a synoptic, high level analysis of the economic, social and environmental situation in Ireland, intended to provide a context for broad discussions with the Social Partners and within society generally. The discussion also made it clear that the intention was to select a fairly manageable set of important indicators rather than a large set which might become unhelpful to inexperienced users. The CSO set an objective of producing a user-friendly report that would open the world of statistics to a very broad range of users including many persons who were not already regular users of CSO data.

Volume 2 provided information on the domains of policy interest, the headline indicators and background indicators (disaggregations) in: four national proposals (by NESC, the Competitiveness Council and the Combat Poverty Agency); five sets of indicators used by international bodies (EU, UN and OECD); and work by some other National Statistical Institutes (ONS (UK), CBS Netherlands and the Australian Bureau of Statistics). Users found this information very helpful as it put in context what the CSO was attempting to do and also illustrated fairly sharply the difficulties in trying to cope with an ever increasing number of indicators.

The domains of interest in some of the national and international indicators reports were compared and account was also taken of a social framework developed in an earlier NSB report. Ultimately ten domains were chosen as best fitting the Irish context and purpose of the report:

1 Economy	6 Health
2 Innovation and technology	7 Population
3 Employment and unemployment	8 Housing
4 Social cohesion	9 Crime
5 Education	10 Environment

The 108 chosen indicators were grouped within 48 themes within these domains. For example, there were ten indicators for Social cohesion grouped under the four themes - Voter turnout; Official development assistance; Risk of poverty; and Gender pay gap.

Criteria for selecting the Indicators

In the context of providing statistical information to show the outcomes in a number of priority areas for Irish society, it was decided to present a small number of high quality indicators in each of the ten domains of

interest. A European Commission report had identified seven criteria to be considered in assessing the quality of indicators:

- Easy to read and understand
- Policy relevant
- Mutually consistent
- Timely availability
- Comparable across countries
- Selected from reliable sources
- Not too large a response burden

The NSB, in its *Strategy for Statistics 2003-2008*, reiterated the need for a national progress indicators report and requested that the selected indicators should be consistent with international statistical concepts and facilitate international benchmarking. It was decided to present the indicators in the report in both a national and international context. The national context would typically be in a time series format. The international context was chosen to be the existing (at the time) fifteen EU countries and also the ten countries who at the time were hoping to join the EU.

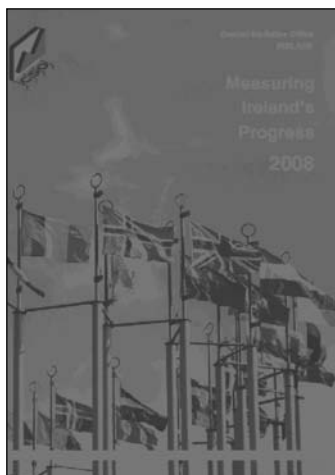
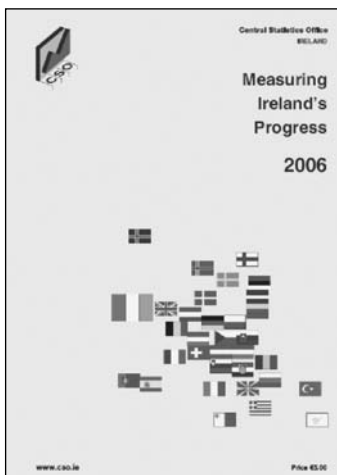
Launch of the Indicators Publication

The NSB had been considering strategies which would increase the use made of statistics in providing support to the formulation of policy and the monitoring of outcomes. The 2003-2005 Social Partnership agreement *Sustaining Progress* also requested the CSO to support a move towards more evidence based policy making by developing a set of national progress indicators. We decided to devise a release strategy which would maximise buy-in across a broad sweep of society. In discussions with the Department of the Taoiseach, it was decided that the Taoiseach and the Director General of the CSO would launch the report at a Social Partnership gathering. This function was well attended both in terms of numbers and in terms of people of influence

in a vast array of stakeholder organisations in Ireland. The publication had been developed for those users.

The Press Release which accompanied the report was prepared, without outside involvement, by the CSO and said that “the indicators presented in the report provide a mixed picture of Ireland’s performance and current well-being relative to other EU countries”. It went on to mention seven points “where Ireland is performing well” and nine points “where further progress is possible”. Even though it is exactly what is expected of the CSO in Ireland, this balance reinforced the role of the publication as being an objective, professional piece of work geared to support evidence based policy making at a high level.

The way in which the launch was handled ensured that the political system, policy makers, and the various interest groups were identified as having supported the need for the development of the publication. It could only have worked in this particular way because of the strong links between the Department of the Taoiseach and the NSB, NESC and Social Partnership.



There was a very positive media (press, radio and TV) reaction to the publication although, as seems to be the norm, there were more stories around the indicators where further progress is possible. In the months following publication the report was used in articles by economic and social commentators; and also in some parliamentary debates. Finally, the report was used by participants in the Social Partnership process, particularly those representing the disadvantaged or marginalised in society.

Looking back

The seventh version of the report was published in August 2009. Over that period the report has been nuanced but no very substantial changes have been made. Many of the indicator series have been extended to show a longer time series trend and some indicators have been replaced after better or more consistent data became available (e.g. poverty and crime). The changes to the set of indicators that have been made between the 2003 initial report and the latest 2008 report are summarised in Appendix 2. The report has been extensively covered by the media and many users of statistics have, over the years, complimented the CSO on the usefulness and accessibility of the report. At international level, the report attracted considerable attention and resulted in the Director General of the CSO being asked to deliver a keynote presentation at the inaugural OECD Forum on the Progress of Societies in 2004. The report also provided an impetus for other National Statistical Institutes to publish similar benchmarks of the situation in their own country.

IRISHTIMES.

Friday, October 16, 2009

Irish prices second highest in EU

DAVID LABANYI

Ireland was the second most expensive country for consumers in the EU in 2007, according to a report published today from the Central Statistics Office.

The *Measuring Ireland's Progress 2008* study examined a set of social and economic indicators and found prices were only behind those in Denmark, although it had the gross domestic product per capita, at 43 per cent average.

The study was part of the social partnership agreement (2005) which requested the CSO develop a set of 30 indicators and an index to measure the country's progress.

Herald.

SKIP LINKS

Wednesday August 12 2009

Ireland is the second most expensive country in the EU, according to a new report from the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

On a more positive note, the survey also reveals that Ireland has one of the highest levels of third-level education in the European Union.

The CSO's *Measuring Ireland's Progress 2008* covers a number of social and economic indicators and offers a snapshot of how Ireland compares with its EU neighbours.

In education, Ireland has the second highest level of third-level graduates among 25-34 year olds. However, when it comes to primary education, Ireland falls short – the average class size in this country is still the joint highest in the EU.

In research and development, Ireland still lags behind its EU neighbours with the number of patents registered at half the EU average.

Consumers in Ireland face the second highest price levels in the EU after Denmark.

The report also highlights the decline in

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Independent.ie

One in 20 lived boom in poverty

Wednesday August 12 2009

JUST Over 5pc of the population were living in consistent poverty as the Celtic Tiger boom was nearing its end.

Figures on Ireland's spending on social protection show that 40pc of the population were at risk of poverty in 2007 -- marginally better than the EU average of 43pc, according to the CSO figures.

Ireland's expenditure on social protection in 2006 was 18.2pc of GDP -- the eighth lowest reported of the 27 EU member states and well below the average of 26.9pc.

France topped the spending league with a GDP spend of 31.1pc on social protection, followed by Sweden (30.07pc) and Belgium (30.1pc).

The figures also show Ireland lagging way behind in social protection expenditure

IRISHTIMES.com

Irish Examiner.

High cost of living in Ireland highlighted

By R. O'BRIEN Social Affairs Correspondent

MEASURING IRELAND'S PROGRESS

IRELAND'S SOCIAL and economic highlights are laid bare in a new report by the Central Statistics Office charting the country's transition from a boom to a bust.

The report shows a country in rapid transition from one of the fastest growing in the world to one of the slowest.

Number of science, maths and tech PhDs above EU average

By Colleen Collins

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

A higher number of PhDs being awarded to students of science, maths and technology was above the EU average in 2006, according to the CSO's latest progress report.

Ireland spent less on research and development than the EU average in 2007 period.

While the percentage of GDP this gap has been narrowing since 2002 when 1.33% of GDP was spent on research and development.

In 2007, this spend had increased to 1.31% with that for Sweden being 3.64%, Finland 3.47% and Austria 2.96% of GDP. Bulgaria, Slovakia and Cyprus were among the countries spending less than the Irish on research and development.

Example Indicators

This Section presents a small range of indicators from the 2008 publication. The examples include a table or graph illustrating the indicator and also the accompanying text describing the data.

The first example shows GDP per capita in purchasing power standards over the period 2004 to 2008. Data are given for the 27 EU members and for six additional European countries (Croatia, Iceland, Macedonia TFYR, Norway, Switzerland, and Turkey). Gross national income data for Ireland is also given as in most countries the figures for GDP and GNI are at similar levels whereas for Ireland there was a difference of around 14% in 2008. The countries are sorted in GDP per capita order in 2008 with Luxembourg at the top of the table. Romania and Bulgaria had the lowest GDP per capita in PPS in 2008 of the 27 member states. Immediately above them the next six countries all became members in 2004. The table shows that all but one of these eight countries improved their position from 2004 to 2008 relative to the EU 27 average. Metadata explaining the meaning of the terms used in the table, such as purchasing power standards, are given in an appendix of the report.

The next example (1.6) shows trends in the public balance between 1999 and 2008 as a percentage of GDP. These trends are benchmarked against the 3% of GDP deficit limit in the EMU Stability and growth Pact. The graph shows the sharp deterioration for Ireland in 2007 and 2008. The next example shows social protection expenditure as a percentage of GDP and hence both of these graphs are using GDP as the base.

The other examples show a selection of indicators from different domains (social cohesion, education, housing, crime and environment). The housing indicators show the numbers of dwelling unit completions over the period 1970-2008, the average value of a mortgage 1998-2007, and the mortgage interest rate 1998-2007. Graph 8.3 shows that mortgage interest rates fell sharply between 2001 and 2005 while the value of an average mortgage almost doubled over the same period.

1.3 EU: GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards, 2004–2008³*EU 27=100*

Country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Luxembourg	253.4	254.0	267.0	267.2	258.4
Ireland (GDP)	142.0	144.1	147.3	150.2	143.1
Netherlands	129.2	130.8	130.9	130.9	132.2
Austria	126.8	124.7	124.3	123.8	124.8
Ireland (GNI)	121.8	123.6	128.0	127.7	121.5
Sweden	124.8	120.3	121.4	122.2	120.1
Belgium	120.7	119.4	118.4	118.0	118.5
United Kingdom	123.5	121.8	120.3	119.0	118.5
Denmark	125.7	123.6	122.9	120.0	117.1
Germany	116.4	116.9	115.7	114.7	115.6
Finland	116.2	114.1	114.8	115.8	115.5
France	110.0	110.6	109.1	108.9	108.1
Spain	101.0	102.0	104.0	105.4	104.2
EU 27	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Italy	106.7	104.8	103.8	101.9	99.3
Greece	94.0	92.8	94.1	94.8	96.6
Cyprus	90.3	90.9	90.2	90.8	92.6
Slovenia	86.4	87.4	87.6	89.2	90.8
Czech Republic	75.1	75.8	77.4	80.2	81.3
Malta	77.2	78.2	76.7	77.9	79.0
Portugal	74.6	76.9	76.3	76.1	75.5
Slovakia	57.1	60.2	63.5	67.0	70.7
Estonia	57.2	61.1	65.3	67.9	65.1
Hungary	63.1	63.1	63.5	62.7	62.9
Lithuania	50.5	52.9	55.5	59.5	60.6
Poland	50.6	51.3	52.3	53.7	56.1

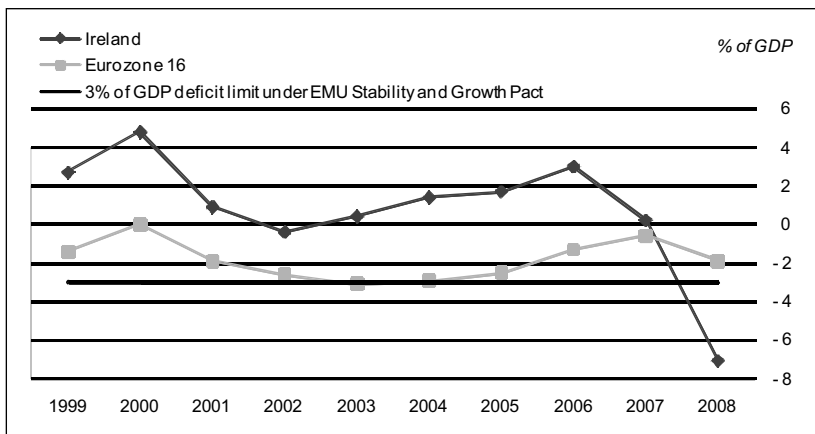
Latvia	45.7	48.6	52.5	57.9	55.1
Romania	34.1	35.0	38.3	42.1	44.9
Bulgaria	33.7	34.5	36.5	37.2	39.2
Norway	164.4	176.2	183.7	178.4	179.2
Switzerland	136.0	133.5	135.9	137.1	138.2
Iceland	131.1	130.4	123.7	119.1	117.6
Croatia	55.8	56.6	58.4	61.1	63.0
Turkey	37.3	40.4	42.6	44.7	44.4
Macedonia, TFYR	26.6	28.5	29.4	31.2	32.5

Source: Eurostat

- In 2008, Ireland had the second highest GDP per capita within the EU 27, expressed in terms of purchasing power standards. GDP per capita in Ireland increased from 42% above the EU 27 average in 2004 to 50.2% above in 2007, before falling back to 2004 levels (43.1% above the EU 27 average) in 2008 (see Table 1.3).
- The pattern of GNI per capita in Ireland is similar; it rose from 21.8% above the EU 27 average in 2004 to 27.7 % above in 2007, falling back to 21.5% in 2008.
- The twelve new EU Member States were all below the EU 27 average in 2008. However, most have shown an improvement over the 2004-2008 period (see Table 1.3).

³ 2008 data are forecasts, data for 2007 for Romania and Turkey are forecasts. Break in series in 2004 for Belgium and France.

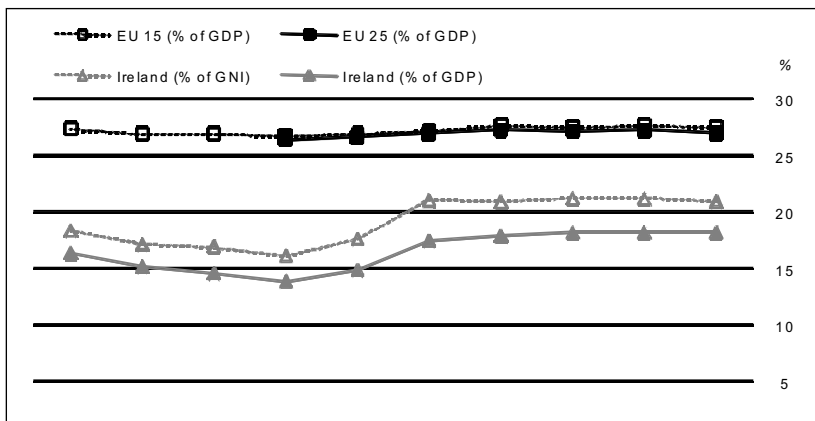
1.6 Ireland and Eurozone: Public balance, 1999–2008



Source: Eurostat, CSO National Accounts

- The public balance in 2008 fell sharply to -7.1% of GDP, exceeding the 3% of GDP deficit limit in the EMU Stability and Growth Pact. With the exception of 2002, when a small deficit was recorded, the public balance in Ireland had been in surplus each year over the period 1999 to 2007 (see Graph 1.6).

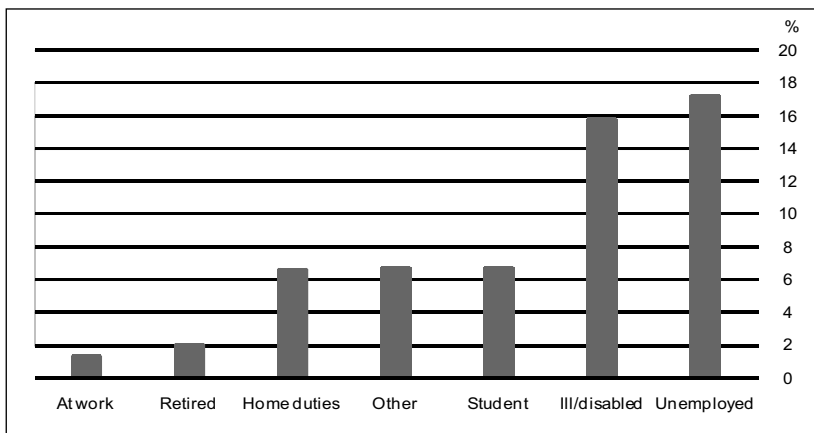
4.1 Ireland and EU: Social protection expenditure⁴, 1997–2006



Source: Eurostat, CSO National Accounts

- Social protection expenditure⁵ as a proportion of GDP was lower in Ireland over the period 1997-2006 than in the EU 15 and EU 25 Member States. Expenditure in Ireland decreased from 16.4% of GDP in 1997 to 13.9% in 2000, but subsequently increased over the following years to stand at 18.2% in 2006 (see Graph 4.1).

4.7 Ireland: Persons in consistent poverty⁶ by principal economic status, 2007



Source: CSO, EU SILC

- In 2007, 17.2% of unemployed persons were in consistent poverty, compared with 1.3% of people at work. One in six (15.8%) of ill or disabled people were experiencing consistent poverty (see Graph 4.7).

⁶ Percentage of persons aged 16 and over in 'consistent poverty' at 60% level using basic life-style deprivation indicators. Data for the category 'Other' is unreliable due to the small sample size.

5.6 Ireland: Persons aged 25–34 with 3rd level⁷ education, 2000–2008

% of population aged 25-34

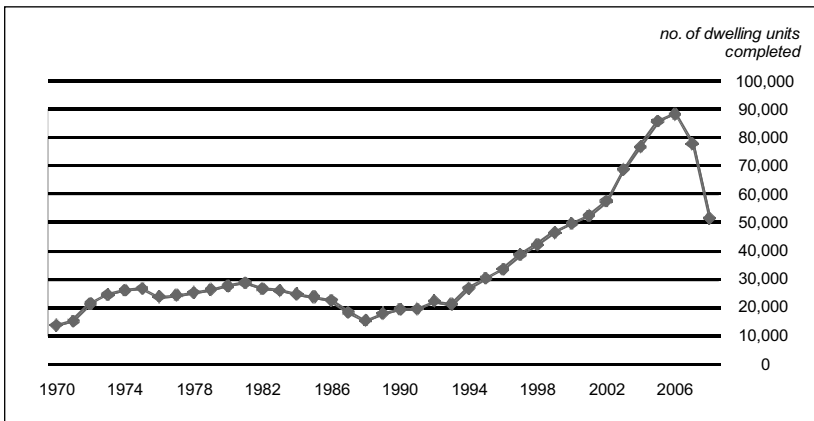
Year	Persons	Males	Females
2000	29.0	27.5	30.5
2001	31.9	29.8	34.0
2002	34.8	31.5	38.0
2003	36.8	34.4	39.2
2004	39.5	36.2	42.8
2005	39.2	34.8	43.7
2006	40.0	33.4	46.8
2007	41.3	35.1	47.7
2008	42.3	34.9	49.9

Source: CSO QNHS

- Over the period 2000-2008, the proportion of females aged 25-34 in Ireland with 3rd level education rose from 30.5% in 2000 to 49.9% in 2008. Over the same period, the rate for males increased from 27.5% to 36.2% in 2004 before falling back to 33.4% in 2006 and then increasing to 34.9% in 2008 (see Table 5.6). The widening gap reflects the increasing tendency for females to remain in education for longer than males.

⁷ ISCED 97 levels 5-6.

8.1 Ireland: Dwelling unit completions, 1970–2008⁸

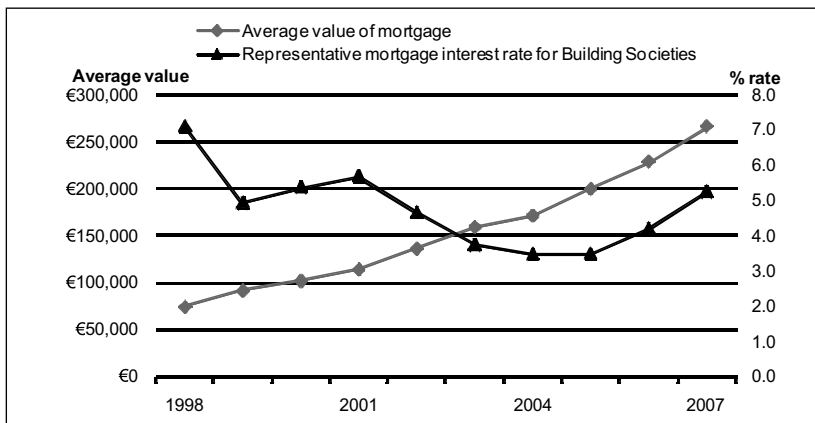


Source: Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, CSO

- There were 13,887 dwelling unit completions in 1970. This figure gradually rose to 28,917 in 1981 before falling to 15,654 in 1988. Since then it has increased sharply to peak at almost 90,000 in 2006. The number of completions however has nearly halved since then to stand at 51,724 in 2008 (see Graph 8.1 and footnote).

⁸ House completions data series are based on the number of new dwellings connected by ESB Networks. These represent the number of homes completed and available, and do not reflect any work-in-progress. ESB Networks indicated that there was a higher backlog in work-in-progress in 2005 than usual (estimated as being in the region of 5,000 units). This backlog was cleared through the connection of an additional 2,000 houses in Q1 2006 and 3,000 houses in Q2 2006. CSO amended the 2005 and 2006 completion figures accordingly.

8.3 Ireland: Housing loans paid⁹, 1998-2007

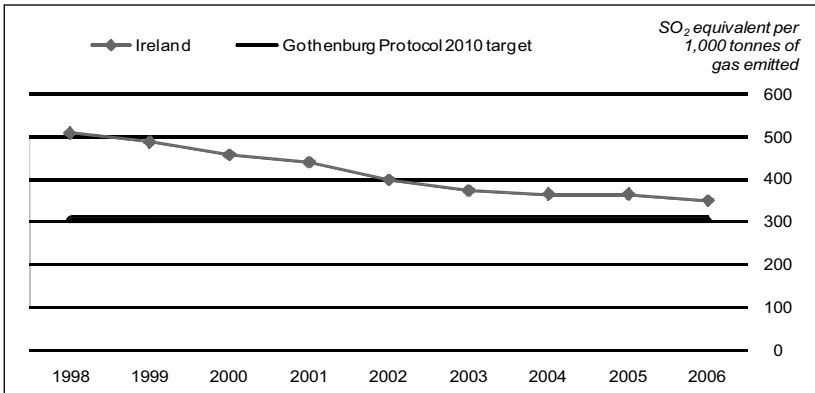


Source: Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

- The average value of a new housing loan in Ireland rose from €74,700 in 1998 to €266,400 in 2007. Between 1998 and 2004 mortgage interest rates fell (from 7.1% to 3.48%) but have since risen, reaching 5.25% in 2007. The number of loans taken out for housing rose from 61,407 in 1998 to a peak of 111,253 in 2006 before falling back to 84,286 in 2007 (see Table 8.3).

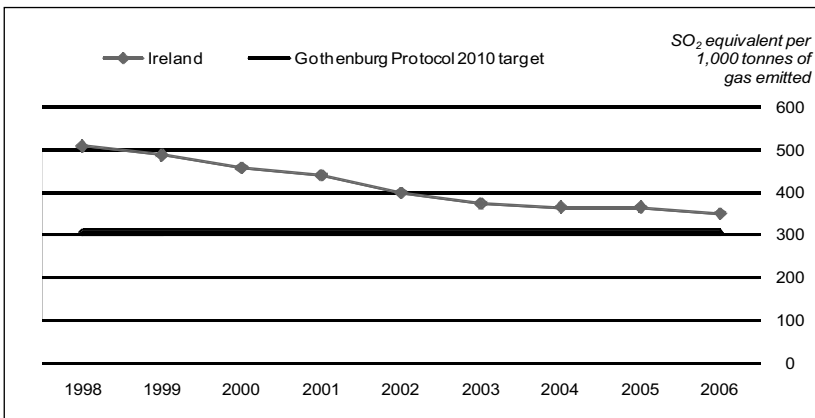
⁹ These data contain an unquantified element of refinancing of existing mortgages (e.g. involving the redemption of an existing mortgage and its replacement with a mortgage from a different lender).

9.4 Ireland: Murders recorded, 2003–2007



- The number of murders recorded in Ireland was 77 in 2007. Men were the victims in over 80% of these murders. The number of male victims of murder has risen steadily since 2004, when 23 males were murdered, to 63 murders in 2007. The female figure has remained more stable over the period (see Graph 9.4).

10.7 Ireland: Acid rain precursor emissions, 1998–2006



- The level of acid rain precursor emissions in Ireland has been decreasing since 1998, from 509.5 SO₂ equivalent per 1,000 tonnes of gas emitted to 351.7 in 2006. The decrease is mainly

due to lower levels of sulphur dioxide emissions (see Graph 10.7).

- The Gothenburg Protocol 2010 target emissions level is 306. In 1998, Ireland's emissions were 66% above this target, but by 2006 the levels had reduced to 15% above the target (see Graph 10.7).

Filling the gaps – thematic reports

When Measuring Ireland's Progress was published it was seen as a broad report covering important aspects of the economic, social and environment domains. There was an aspiration to cover the social domain more thoroughly by using some of the nine equality grounds as the basis for a series of largely census of population based thematic reports. The first of these was Women and Men in Ireland which was published in 2004. Equality in Ireland and Ageing in Ireland followed in 2007. A Regional Quality of life in Ireland report was published in 2008 and finally a Children and Young People's report in 2009. These reports presented a broad range of indicators in a very accessible format. All of our reports are available free of charge on our website both in pdf and excel formats.

In 2003, in the context of the publication of the NSB Report *Developing Irish Social and Equality Statistics to meet Policy Needs*, the Government also decided that the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) should take the lead role in the preparation and dissemination of a periodic overall social report. This report Well-being Matters: A Social Report for Ireland was published in October 2009, inter alia, building upon the suite of CSO indicator reports. The NESC report is however very different in nature to the indicator reports as the purpose is to analyse key social trends to inform social policy and well-being in Ireland. Thus the report focuses on the conclusions to be drawn from the data.

Future CSO work

It was always intended that Measuring Ireland's Progress would develop over time as new priorities emerged and new indicators became available from data sources such as the EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions and the modules from the Quarterly National Household Survey. This development work has been done on an incremental basis up to now but a number of initiatives, some of which are the focus of today's discussion, are pointing towards a more fundamental and wide ranging review in the near future.

In the Government 2008 report *Building Ireland's Smart Economy*, the CSO was requested to: **“develop more comprehensive measures of Sustainable Development in Ireland to take account, in particular, of the environmental impact of economic development”**. The current situation with respect to the development of a national sustainable development indicators report is quite similar to that which prevailed around 2002 in relation to a set of national progress indicators:

- There are various international sustainable development indicator sets available;
- Comhar has developed headline, national and local sets in much the same way as NESC did in relation to the progress indicators; and
- There is a considerable amount of international statistical research being undertaken into the conceptual development of a core set of SDI indicators based on the use and availability of the various forms of capital resources (i.e. natural capital, physical capital, human capital and social capital).

The CSO is monitoring these developments and, taking into account any follow-on activity at EU level stemming from the recent Communication from the Commission to the Council and Parliament on “GDP and beyond, Measuring progress in a changing world” (COM (2009) 433), will develop an appropriate set for national purposes.

Many of these indicators are, of course, already included in Measuring Ireland's Progress and the question therefore arises as to whether the expanded set can be accommodated within the existing publication or whether a separate release will be required.

With regard to the measurement of well-being, the OECD Global Project and the recently published report of the "Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress", which was established by President Sarkozy and jointly chaired by Joseph Stiglitz and Amartya Sen, will undoubtedly have a major impact on the response of the official statistical community. For example, a high level committee is about to be formed within the European Statistical System to consider the implications of the latter report for European Statistics. Since the programme for European Statistics is the main driver of our national statistical system any developments at EU level will automatically be reflected in CSO outputs.

Technological developments in the presentation and dissemination of statistics will also have a bearing on the format and means of delivery of future editions of Measuring Ireland's Progress. For example, the current CSO policy is to put much greater emphasis on electronic dissemination. For many statistical releases electronic dissemination will be the default option with hard copies provided only on demand.

The CSO would welcome the views of users on these potential developments. The timetable for introducing significant developments, however, will be determined very much by the availability of resources and competing priorities. In common with all other public agencies, the CSO's budget will be under significant strain in the short to medium term. In this context, the identification of areas of lower priority, in particular where statistics may no longer be as relevant as in the past, is of significant importance to the Office in its forward planning.

Appendix 1: References to statistics in Social partnership Agreement

Programme for Competitiveness and Work (1994)

- 1.66 Resources within the Central Statistics Office will be reallocated or increased, where appropriate, so as to allow for the improved collection and compilation of service statistics, which will be required for the services information base that it is proposed to establish.

Partnership 2000 for Inclusion, Employment and Competitiveness (1997)

- 5.11 The development of statistical methods to evaluate the full extent of the contribution of unpaid work, mainly done by women and their contributions to the national economy, including their contribution in the unremunerated and domestic sectors, will be undertaken during the course of this Partnership. The CSO will undertake a pilot study based on a time-use survey during 1997 as the first stage of this process.

Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (2000)

10. NESC will be requested to consider the development of a framework by June 2001 to bring into operation national progress indicators to measure economic, social and environmental development. This will encompass the availability and use of new forms of data sources, including Time Use Surveys, National Household Accounts and National Satellite Accounts.
12. A co-ordinated strategy including the relevant Government Departments, the Equality Authority and the Central Statistics Office will develop a system for the collection and dissemination of disaggregated data for women and, in relation to health, education and training, for Travellers.

21. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform will put arrangements in place to review and identify key statistical needs in relation to people with disabilities or categories of people with disabilities for the purposes of informing policy, planning and the delivery of services.

Sustaining Progress (2003)

The key national economic and social development tasks to be accomplished relate to the following priorities, as agreed between the social partners, are as follows ... Progress in this regard will be monitored having regard to National Progress Indicators proposed by the NESC and being further developed by the Central Statistics Office.

- 1.14 The strengthening of information systems to enable services to be delivered on the basis of the best available evidence and knowledge, including financial management and evaluation systems, will command a high priority so that value for money and quality of outcomes can be better assessed across the public service and service planning can be further enhanced.
- 5.1.2 put in place the data framework to support evidence based policy making, as well as the critical evaluation, monitoring and review of social inclusion programmes and initiatives;

The CSO will develop, under the guidance of the National Statistics Board (NSB) and the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, a framework for social and equality statistics. The NSB will work with a range of interested parties, including the social partners, in developing this initiative.

The CSO will take a lead role in the development of the potential of administrative data across Government Departments and Agencies in conjunction with the Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion.

A set of national progress indicators will be developed by the

CSO building on Benchmarking the PPF (NESC 107) and National Progress Indicators (NESC 108) reports.

17.6 The recent CSO Survey of Pension Coverage (Quarterly National Household Survey 1st Quarter, 2002) has provided statistics which will enable the Pensions Board and others to measure and track the trends in coverage. It will also enable the extent and effects of the introduction of PRSAs to be monitored. The full Survey should be repeated at regular four-year intervals, commencing in the first quarter of 2006; and the first two questions (providing overall coverage figures) should be asked every second year commencing in the first quarter of 2004. Having a full report in 2006 will also link in with the Minister's statutory obligations (as per the Pensions Act, 2002, Part X), to report on the development of occupational and other pensions three years after the introduction of PRSAs.

Appendix 2: Indicators comparison 2003 and 2008

Domain theme	Indicator 2003	Changes 2008
1 Gross domestic product	1.1 Ireland: GDP and GNI at current market prices, 1993-2002 1.2 EU: GDP and GNI at current market prices, 2002 1.3 EU: GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards, 2000-2002	1999-2008 2008 2004-2008
2 Government debt	1.4 Ireland and Eurozone 12: General government consolidated gross debt, 1993-2002 1.5 EU: General government consolidated gross debt, 2000-2002	1999-2008 2004-2008
3 Public balance	1.6 Ireland and Eurozone 12: Public balance, 1996-2002 1.7 Ireland: Central and Local Government current expenditure, 1992-2001 1.8 EU: Public balance, 2000-2002	1999-2008 1998-2007 2004-2008
4 Gross fixed capital formation	1.9 Ireland and EU 15: Gross fixed capital formation, 1993-2002 1.10 EU: Gross fixed capital formation, 2000-2002	1999-2008 2004-2008
5 International transactions	1.11 EU: Current account balance, 2000-2002 1.12 EU: Direct investment flows, 2002	2004-2008 2007-2008
6 International trade	1.13 EU: Exports of goods and services, 2000-2002 1.14 EU: Imports of goods and services, 2000-2002	2004-2008 2004-2008
7 Exchange rates	1.15 International: Bilateral euro exchange rates, 1999-2002 1.16 Ireland: Trade weighted competitiveness indicator, 1999-2002	1999-2008 Harmonised competitiveness indicator 1999-2008
8 Interest rates	1.17 Eurozone 12: Convergence of interest rates for short-term loans to enterprises, 1993-2002	Eurozone: Convergence of interest rates for loans to non-financial corporations, 1999-2008

Domain theme	Indicator 2003	Changes 2008
	1.18 EU: Annual interest rates for short-term loans to enterprises, 2000-2002	Eurozone: Interest rates for short-term loans (new business) to non-financial corporations, 2007-2008
9 Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices	1.19 Ireland and EU 15: Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices, 1996-2002 1.20 EU: Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices, 2000-2002	1999-2008 2005-2008
10 Price levels Regional Income	1.21 Ireland and EU 15: Comparative price levels of final consumption by private households including indirect taxes, 1992-2001 1.22 EU: Comparative price levels of final consumption by private households including indirect taxes, 1999-2001 1.23 Ireland: Gross Value Added per capita by region, 2002-2006 1.24 Ireland: Disposable income per capita by region, 2002-2006	1998-2007 2003-2007
11 Science and technology graduates	2.1 Ireland: Science and technology graduates, per 1,000 of population aged 20-29, 1993-2001 2.2 EU: Mathematics, science and technology PhDs awarded per 1,000 of population aged 25-34, 2000-2001	1997-2006 2002-2006
12 Research and development expenditure	2.3 Ireland and EU 15: Gross domestic expenditure on R&D, 1992-2001 2.4 EU: Gross domestic expenditure on R&D, 1991-2001	1998-2007 1997-2007
13 Patent applications	2.5 Ireland and EU 15: Applications to the European Patent Office, 1992-2001 2.6 EU: Applications to the European Patent Office, 2001	1996-2005 2005
14 Household internet access	2.7 Ireland: Private households with internet access, 1998-2003 2.8 EU: Private households with internet access, 2002	1998-2008 2004-2008

Measuring Ireland's Progress

Domain theme	Indicator 2003	Changes 2008
15 Employment rate	3.1 Ireland: Employment rates, 1994-2003 3.2 EU: Employment rates by sex, 2002	1999-2008 2007
16 Labour productivity	3.3 Ireland: GDP and GNI in PPS per hour worked and per person employed, 1993-2002 3.4 EU: GDP in PPS per person employed, 2001	1998-2008 2008
17 Unemployment rate	3.5 Ireland and EU 15: Unemployment rates, 1993-2002 3.6 EU: Unemployment rates by sex, 2002 3.7 Ireland and EU 15: Long-term unemployment rates, 1992-2001 3.8 EU: Long-term unemployment rates by sex, 2001	1999-2008 2008 1999-2008 2007
18 Jobless households	3.9 Ireland: Population aged 18-59 living in jobless households, 1993-2002 3.10 EU: Population aged 18-59 living in jobless households, 2000-2002	1998-2007 2003-2007
19 Older workers	3.11 EU: Employment rate of workers aged 55-64 by sex, 2001 3.12 EU: Average exit age from the labour force by sex, 2001	2007 2007
20 Voter turnout	4.1 Ireland: Numbers voting in Dáil elections, 1973-2002 4.2 EU: Votes recorded at national parliamentary elections, 1981-2002	1973-2007 1983-2008
21 Official development assistance	4.3 Ireland: Net official development assistance, 1993-2002 4.4 EU: Net official development assistance, 2001	1998-2007 2003-2007
22 Risk of poverty	4.5 Ireland: At risk of poverty rate, 1995-2000 4.6 EU: At risk of poverty rate, 2000 4.7 Ireland: Persons experiencing consistent poverty, 1998-2001 4.8 EU: At persistent risk of poverty rate, 2000 4.9 EU: At risk of poverty rate anchored at a moment in time, 1996-2000	Dropped 2007 Ireland: Persons in consistent poverty by age and sex 2006-2007 Dropped Dropped

Domain theme	Indicator 2003	Changes 2008
23		Ireland: At risk of poverty rates by age and sex , 2006-2007
24		Ireland: Persons in consistent poverty by principal economic status 2007
25 Gender pay gap	4.10 EU: Female earnings as proportion of male earnings, 1998-2000	2002-2007
26 Education expenditure	5.1 Ireland: Real non-capital public expenditure on education, 1998-2002 5.2 Ireland: Student numbers by level, 1994-2002 5.3 EU: Public expenditure on education, 1998-2000	1998-2007 1998-2008 2004-2006
27 Pupil-teacher ratio	5.4 EU: Ratio of students to teachers, 2001 5.5 EU: Average class size at ISCED levels 1 and 2, 2001	2005/2006 2005/2006
28 Third level education	5.6 Ireland: Persons aged 25-34 with 3 rd level education, 1999-2002 5.7 EU: Persons aged 25-34 with 3 rd level education by sex, 2002	2000-2008 2008
29 Literacy education	5.8 Ireland: Student performance on the combined reading, mathematical and scientific literacy scales by sex, 2000 5.9 EU: Student performance on the combined reading, mathematical and scientific literacy scales, 2000	2006 2006
30 Early school leavers	5.10 Ireland: Early school leavers by labour force status and sex, 2002 5.11 Ireland: Proportion of the population aged 20-64 with, at least, upper secondary education, 2002 5.12 EU: Early school leavers, 2002	2008 2008 2007
31 Health care expenditure	6.1 Ireland: Non-capital public expenditure on health care, 1993-2002 6.2 EU: Total expenditure on health as percentage of GDP, 1998-2000	1997-2006 2004-2006
32 Life expectancy	6.3 Ireland: Life expectancy at birth and at age 65 by sex, 1925-1997 6.4 EU: Life expectancy at birth by sex, 2001	1925-2007 2007

Measuring Ireland's Progress

Domain theme	Indicator 2003	Changes 2008
33 Population distribution	7.1 Ireland: Population distribution by age group, 1994-2003	1999-2008
	7.2 Ireland: Household composition, 1994-2003	1999-2008
	7.3 EU: Population change, 1992-2001	1998-2008
34 Migration	7.4 Ireland: Migration and natural increase, 1994-2003	1999-2008
	7.5 Ireland: Immigration by country of origin, 1994-2003	1999-2008
	7.6 Ireland and EU 15: Rate of natural increase of population, 1993-2002	1998-2007
35 Age of population	7.7 Ireland: Average age of population for census years by sex, 1926-2002	Dropped
	7.8 Ireland: Age dependency ratio, 1994-2003	1999-2008
	7.9 EU: Young and old as proportion of population aged 15-64, 2001	2008
36 Fertility	7.10 Ireland and EU 15: Total fertility rate, 1992-2001	1998-2007
	7.11 EU: Total fertility rate, 1991-2001	1997-2007
37 Lone parent families	7.12 Ireland: Lone parent families with children aged under 20 by sex of parent, 1994-2003	1999-2008
	7.13 Ireland: Adult members of family units, 1994-2003	Dropped
38 Persons aged 65 and over living alone	7.14 Ireland: Persons aged 65 and over living alone by sex, 1994-2003	1999-2008
39 Dwelling completions	8.1 Ireland: Dwelling unit completions, 1993-2002	1970-2008
40 Owner-occupiers	8.2 EU: Owner-occupiers, 1995-2000	Dropped
	8.3 Ireland: Nature of occupancy of private households, 1961-2002	1961-2006
41 Mortgages	8.4 Ireland: New housing loans, 1993-2002	1998-2007
	8.5 EU: Annual average interest rates for mortgages, 2000-2002	Eurozone: Interest rates for household mortgages (new business) 2004-2008
42 Headline offences	9.1 Ireland: Headline offences detection rates by Garda Division, 2000-2002	Ireland: Incident detection rates by Garda Division 2003-2007

Domain theme	Indicator 2003	Changes 2008
	9.2 Ireland: Headline offences recorded by Garda Division, 2002	Ireland: Recorded incidents by Garda Division 2007
	9.3 Ireland: Indictable/headline offences recorded, 1970-2002	Ireland: Recorded incidents per 1,000 population 2003-2007
43 Homicide rate	9.4 Ireland: Homicides recorded, 1970-2002	Ireland: Murders recorded 2003-2007
	9.5 EU: Homicide rate per 100,000 population, 2000-2002	Dropped
44 Greenhouse gases	10.1 Ireland: Total net greenhouse gas emissions (based on CO ₂ equivalents), 1990-2001	1998-2007
	10.2 EU: Net greenhouse gas emissions, 2000, and Kyoto 2008-2012 target	2006
45 Energy intensity of economy	10.3 Ireland: Gross inland consumption of energy at constant 1995 prices, 1992-2001	1998-2007
	10.4 EU: Gross inland consumption of energy at constant 1995 prices, 2000	2007
46 River water quality	10.5 Ireland: River water quality, 1987-2000	1987-2006
47 Urban air quality	10.6 Ireland: Smoke concentrations in urban areas, 1985-2001	Ireland: Particulate matter in urban areas 1997-2007
48 Acid rain precursors	10.7 Ireland: Acid rain precursor emissions, 1999-2001	1998-2006
	10.8 Ireland: Acid rain precursor emissions, 1992-2001	1998-2006
49 Waste management	10.9 Ireland: Waste collected and landfilled by type, 1998-2001	2005-2007
	10.10 EU: Municipal waste collected and landfilled, 2000	2007
50 Transport	10.11 Ireland: Private cars under current licence, 1993-2002	1998-2007
	10.12 EU: Passenger cars per 1,000 population, 2000	2003-2007
	10.13 Ireland and EU 15: Share of road in total inland freight transport, 1991-2000	1998-2007
	10.14 EU: Share of road in total inland freight transport, 1999-2001	2003-2007
	10.15 Ireland and EU 15: Index of inland freight transport volume, 1992-2001	1998-2007
	10.16 EU: Index of inland freight transport volume, 1999-2001	2003-2007