

CSO statistical release, 05 March 2019, 11am

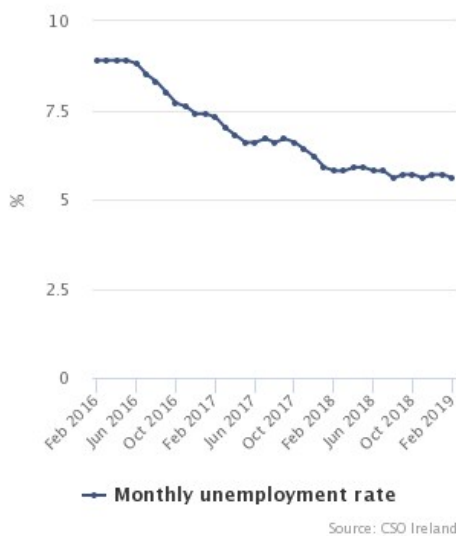
Monthly Unemployment

February 2019

	Seasonally adjusted number of persons unemployed	Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (%)
February 2018	136,700	5.8
January 2019	136,800	5.7
February 2019	135,100	5.6
		Percentage Points
Change in month	- 1,700	- 0.1
Change in year	- 1,600	- 0.2

Monthly unemployment rate of 5.6% February 2019

Figure 1 Monthly unemployment rate (ILO), February 2016 to February 2019



The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2019 was 5.6%, down from the revised rate of 5.7% in January 2019 and down from 5.8% in February 2018. The seasonally adjusted number of persons unemployed was 135,100 in February 2019, down from 136,800 when compared to the January 2019 figure and a decrease of 1,600 when compared to February 2018.

Summary points for February

- In February 2019 the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.6% for males, unchanged from January 2019, and down from 5.9% in February 2018.
- The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for females in February 2019 was 5.6%, down from 5.7% in both January 2019 and February 2018.
- The seasonally adjusted number of males unemployed in February 2019 was 72,600, down from 73,300 in January 2019. In February 2019 the seasonally adjusted number of females unemployed was 62,500 a decrease of 1,000 when compared to January 2019.
- The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for persons aged 15-24 years (youth unemployment rate) was 13.8% in February 2019, a decrease from 13.9% in January 2019.

Data in this release are subject to revision, caused by updates to the seasonally adjusted series whenever new monthly data are added. In addition, it should be noted that larger revisions can occur when the most recent Labour Force Survey (LFS) data are included in the calculation process. Revised figures will be produced upon the publication of each new set of benchmark figures from the LFS and these revisions will be included in the LFS release.

For further information see [here](#).

Monthly Unemployment February 2019 (full)



Table 1a Seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment by sex - All persons aged 15-74 years

		Number of persons			Unemployment rate (%)		
		Males	Females	All Persons	Males	Females	All Persons
2017	February	93,500	76,100	169,600	7.4	7.1	7.3
	March	92,800	71,300	164,100	7.4	6.6	7.0
	April	92,100	66,100	158,300	7.3	6.2	6.8
	May	91,100	63,300	154,400	7.2	6.0	6.6
	June	90,300	63,300	153,600	7.1	6.0	6.6
	July	89,400	66,300	155,700	7.1	6.2	6.7
	August	88,200	66,800	155,000	6.9	6.2	6.6
	September	88,700	67,700	156,500	7.0	6.3	6.7
	October	89,500	65,900	155,400	7.0	6.1	6.6
	November	87,300	64,300	151,600	6.8	5.9	6.4
	December	83,600	63,000	146,600	6.5	5.8	6.2
	2018	January	77,700	61,700	139,400	6.1	5.7
February		75,400	61,300	136,700	5.9	5.7	5.8
March		75,600	61,900	137,500	5.9	5.7	5.8
April		77,200	62,300	139,500	6.0	5.7	5.9
May		77,400	62,900	140,400	6.0	5.7	5.9
June		76,400	62,700	139,100	5.9	5.7	5.8
July		74,900	62,500	137,400	5.8	5.7	5.8
August		72,800	61,800	134,600	5.7	5.6	5.6
September		72,800	62,300	135,000	5.6	5.7	5.7
October		72,600	62,900	135,500	5.6	5.7	5.7
November		72,400	63,100	135,500	5.6	5.7	5.6
December		73,200	63,600	136,800	5.6	5.7	5.7
2019	January	73,300	63,500	136,800	5.6	5.7	5.7
	February	72,600	62,500	135,100	5.6	5.6	5.6

Table 1b Seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment by sex - persons aged 15-24 years

		Number of persons			Unemployment rate (%)		
		Males	Females	All Persons	Males	Females	All Persons
2017	February	22,000	17,200	39,200	15.2	12.2	13.7
	March	23,400	16,800	40,200	16.0	12.0	14.0
	April	25,200	16,700	41,900	17.2	12.0	14.6
	May	26,000	16,500	42,500	17.8	12.1	15.0
	June	25,100	16,800	41,900	17.6	12.8	15.3
	July	22,800	17,000	39,900	16.7	13.8	15.3
	August	21,700	16,700	38,400	16.1	13.9	15.1
	September	21,500	16,500	38,000	15.6	13.6	14.7
	October	21,900	15,500	37,500	15.3	12.3	13.9
	November	21,600	14,900	36,500	14.7	11.5	13.2
	December	21,300	15,400	36,600	14.4	11.8	13.2
	2018	January	20,600	16,000	36,600	14.1	12.3
February		20,700	16,500	37,100	14.2	12.7	13.5
March		21,500	17,200	38,700	14.6	13.2	13.9
April		22,300	17,200	39,500	15.1	13.2	14.2
May		22,800	17,600	40,400	15.4	13.2	14.4
June		22,700	17,500	40,200	15.3	12.9	14.2
July		22,500	17,600	40,100	15.1	12.7	14.0
August		22,500	17,300	39,800	15.0	12.5	13.8
September		22,200	16,800	39,000	14.8	12.2	13.6
October		21,700	16,000	37,800	14.4	12.0	13.3
November		21,800	15,400	37,200	14.3	11.7	13.1
December		22,900	15,700	38,700	14.7	11.9	13.4
2019	January	23,900	16,000	39,900	15.4	12.2	13.9
	February	23,700	16,000	39,700	15.3	12.1	13.8

Table 1c Seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment by sex - persons aged 25-74 years

		Number of persons			Unemployment rate (%)		
		Males	Females	All Persons	Males	Females	All Persons
2017	February	71,500	58,900	130,400	6.4	6.3	6.4
	March	69,400	54,500	123,900	6.2	5.8	6.1
	April	66,900	49,400	116,300	6.0	5.3	5.7
	May	65,100	46,800	111,900	5.8	5.1	5.5
	June	65,200	46,500	111,700	5.8	5.0	5.4
	July	66,600	49,300	115,900	5.9	5.2	5.6
	August	66,500	50,100	116,600	5.9	5.3	5.6
	September	67,200	51,200	118,500	5.9	5.4	5.7
	October	67,600	50,300	117,900	5.9	5.3	5.6
	November	65,700	49,400	115,100	5.8	5.2	5.5
	December	62,400	47,600	110,000	5.5	5.0	5.3
	2018	January	57,100	45,800	102,800	5.0	4.8
February		54,800	44,800	99,600	4.8	4.7	4.8
March		54,100	44,700	98,800	4.8	4.7	4.7
April		54,900	45,100	100,100	4.8	4.7	4.8
May		54,600	45,400	100,000	4.8	4.7	4.8
June		53,700	45,200	98,900	4.7	4.7	4.7
July		52,300	44,900	97,200	4.6	4.7	4.6
August		50,300	44,500	94,900	4.4	4.6	4.5
September		50,500	45,500	96,000	4.4	4.7	4.6
October		50,800	46,900	97,700	4.5	4.8	4.6
November		50,600	47,700	98,200	4.4	4.9	4.6
December		50,200	47,800	98,100	4.4	4.9	4.6
2019	January	49,400	47,500	96,900	4.3	4.9	4.6
	February	48,900	46,500	95,400	4.3	4.7	4.5

Monthly Unemployment February 2019 (full)



Background Notes

Purpose

The purpose of this release is to provide a detailed series of monthly unemployment estimates. The release contains both monthly unemployment rates and monthly unemployment volumes.

Calculation of Monthly Estimates

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides benchmark estimates of employment and unemployment for each quarter since the beginning of 1998. These quarterly benchmark estimates are then used to compile monthly data using the Proportional Denton method. The main characteristic of this method is that the monthly Live Register series is used as an indicator to disaggregate the quarterly LFS unemployment series into a monthly series in such a way as to minimise the differences between two consecutive months. It also ensures that the average of three months in a particular calendar quarter is equal to the corresponding LFS estimate.

For months where the quarterly unemployment data is not yet available, the ratio of the LFS monthly estimate to the Live Register monthly estimate (i.e. the benchmark to indicator ratio) is forecast forward in order to extrapolate a monthly LFS estimate. The monthly series is revised each quarter when the latest quarterly data becomes available. This approach adheres to agreed international practice.

Seasonal Adjustment

To correct for typical seasonal patterns, the data series included have been concurrently seasonally adjusted. This seasonal adjustment is completed by applying the X-12-ARIMA model, developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. In the case of these monthly unemployment estimates, seasonal adjustment is conducted using the indirect approach, where each individual series is independently adjusted. To preserve consistency between the individual and aggregate series, the series for gender, age group and total monthly unemployed are then created from these component series. The series for monthly unemployment rates are likewise created from these component series.

Additional Background Information

Further information regarding the LFS and Live Register series are available from each respective release, while specific information regarding the new LFS and the impact of the revisions arising from the Census of Population 2016 is available in an additional information note.

[Labour Force Survey Q4 2017](#)

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Monthly Unemployment February 2019 (full)

