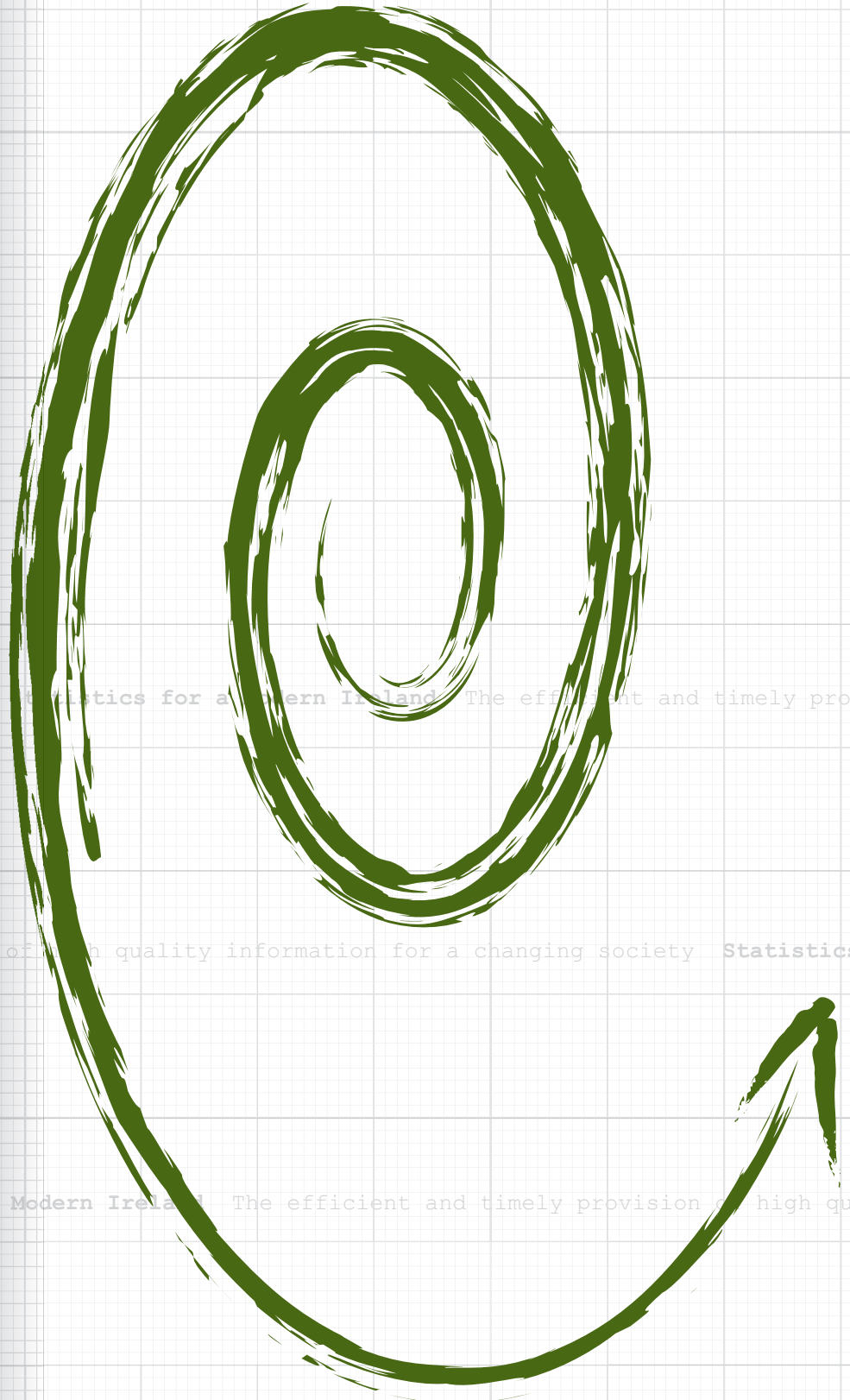




Statement of Strategy 2008-2010



Statistics for a Modern Ireland

The efficient and timely
provision of high
quality information
for a changing society

Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

www.cso.ie

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Foreword

I very much welcome this, the fifth Statement of Strategy of the Central Statistics Office (CSO). It builds on previous CSO strategies and I am pleased to see the continued focus on developing the overall statistical system, in the CSO and in other Departments, to support well-informed decision-making and to measure the progress of our society.

The Census results for 2006 and the CSO's many other surveys and analyses illustrate the complexity and pace of change in Ireland today. The statistical challenges facing the CSO over the next three years encompass important policy topics such as globalisation, migration, the environment, health, education and crime.

While planning for more statistical outputs, I am glad to see that the CSO is also committed to reducing the burden on survey respondents. This is consistent with the Government's target, in line with EU policy, to reduce the administrative burden on business. A comprehensive approach to reducing response burden will depend also on the active support and involvement of other Departments and Agencies.

The EU plays a significant role in setting statistical requirements and the recently adopted European Statistics Code of Practice is an important feature of the CSO's operating environment. It reinforces the CSO's valuable role in Irish society as an independent, impartial and professional statistical office.

In recent years, the CSO has introduced several thematic reports, which provide a valuable statistical reference point for policy-makers, researchers and other users of statistics. The CSO is also making statistics more

accessible through its website and I welcome the planned introduction of the StatCentral web portal for official statistics.

The service provided by the CSO is a tribute to all the Office's staff, in Cork, Dublin and throughout the country. I wish to thank them for their continued willingness to embrace change in the Public Service and wish them every success in implementing this strategy.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Carey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Pat Carey, TD
Minister of State

Introduction by the Director General

This is the CSO's fifth Statement of Strategy. It sets out the CSO's corporate objectives for the period 2008 to 2010, building on the whole-system approach to official statistics adopted in our fourth strategy statement. This approach reflects the National Statistics Board's *Strategy for Statistics 2003-2008*, which emphasised the development of frameworks for social, economic and environmental statistics to support evidence-based decision-making in Government and society.

The CSO has made considerable progress in developing the Irish statistical system, both within the Office and across other Departments and Agencies. A key strategic objective is to make greater statistical use of existing data sources, particularly administrative records. In this strategy for 2008 to 2010, we will continue to advance this work, taking an integrated approach to the challenges of efficiently meeting the demand for statistics while managing the burden placed on survey respondents.

There is a growing demand for statistics, nationally and internationally. National policy needs and EU legislation continue to give rise to new statistical requirements. Major statistical initiatives in the next three years will include the development of environmental statistics and the introduction of a new system of household surveys, to provide data on topics such as adult education, health status, and crime and victimisation.

Our strategy includes a coherent set of actions to manage and, to the extent possible, minimise response burden. These actions include measuring the response burden placed on business; making greater use of electronic reporting; co-ordinating statistical data sources; and extending the statistical use of administrative records.

Over the course of this strategy, we will place greater emphasis on publishing statistical releases, with related commentary and information, via the CSO website. Major thematic reports and publications will continue to be available on paper as well as online. We are also about to launch StatCentral, a new portal site for official statistics, which will facilitate access to a broad range of statistical information from other public sector organisations.

We have designed our organisational structure to support innovation and best practice in implementing statistical methodology, in the CSO and in other Departments and Agencies. Quality assurance is increasingly an integral part of our work programme, reflecting our commitment to the recently adopted European Statistics Code of Practice. Our investment in information technology and in developing the skills and competencies of our staff will continue over the course of this strategy.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the support and commitment of the Partnership Committee and staff of the CSO to achieving our objectives. We have developed this strategy together and we are committed to a comprehensive work programme to meet the information needs of a fast changing society.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerard O'Hanlon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Gerard O'Hanlon
Director General

This is the fifth Strategy Statement of the Central Statistics Office (CSO). It sets out our strategic direction for the years 2008 to 2010, giving our management, staff and external stakeholders a clear guide to our corporate goals and objectives.

CSO Mandate

The CSO was established in 1949 as the national statistics agency. Since then, we have pursued the same basic mandate, as set out in the Statistics Act, 1993:

The collection, compilation, extraction and dissemination for statistical purposes of information relating to economic, social and general activities and conditions in the State.

The Statistics Act provides a comprehensive mandate for compiling official statistics, with strong safeguards for the independence of official statistics and the protection of confidential data. Key features of the Act include:

- The CSO is an independent Office and the Director General of the CSO has sole responsibility in relation to professional statistical matters (i.e. statistical methodologies, professional standards, the content of statistical releases and publications, and the timing and methods of publishing statistics).
- The National Statistics Board, with the agreement of the Taoiseach, has the general function of guiding the overall strategic direction of the CSO. The Director General of the CSO is an *ex officio* member of the board.

-
- The CSO may collect information from persons and undertakings; and the provision of particular statistics may, by Ministerial order, be made obligatory.
 - In addition, the CSO has the right of access, for statistical purposes, to administrative records held by public authorities (subject to some limitations). The functions of the Office include the co-ordination of official statistics compiled by public authorities and the Office has the right to assess the statistical potential of the records held by public authorities.
 - The Act protects the confidentiality of the information provided to the CSO. Information on persons and undertakings furnished under the Act may only be used for statistical purposes and confidential data may not be disseminated. In line with these requirements, the CSO rigorously protects the confidentiality of individual and company data.

The CSO publishes over 300 statistical releases and publications each year. We provide high-quality statistical information, which is a vital input to planning for the future and monitoring outcomes, at national, regional and local levels. We serve the needs of Government and the wider community for impartial and relevant information on social and economic conditions. The users of statistics include business, researchers, the academic community and many other organisations and individuals.

The demand for statistics and the ways they are used are constantly evolving. In the past four years, the CSO has promoted greater use of objective statistical information in evidence-based policy-making. We have advanced the greater statistical use of administrative records as a means of meeting the growing needs for statistics. These objectives reflect the long-term aims set out in the National Statistics Board's *Strategy for Statistics 2003-2008* and are being given further impetus in this new statement of strategy. They will also contribute to our high-level goal of minimising the burden on survey respondents.

International Dimension

There is an important international dimension to our work, due to the need to provide statistics which can be compared directly with other countries. This is particularly the case in respect of our participation in the European statistical system. Meeting EU requirements has been the single most important factor shaping the development of the CSO's work since the 1970s and this has intensified in recent years. There is a substantial body of EU statistical legislation

under the overall framework of Council Regulation (EC) No. 322/97 on Community Statistics¹.

The adoption by the EU Member States in 2005 of a new European Statistics Code of Practice was an important development for official statistics. The code sets standards for the institutional structures and for the processing and publication of statistics in the Member States (see Appendix 1). The implications for the CSO, mainly relating to more formal documentation of existing quality standards, will be addressed over the course of this strategy.

In fulfilling its mandate, the CSO adheres to the highest professional standards of impartiality, integrity and independence. We seek to apply the best internationally-recognised statistical standards and methods. These include the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS).

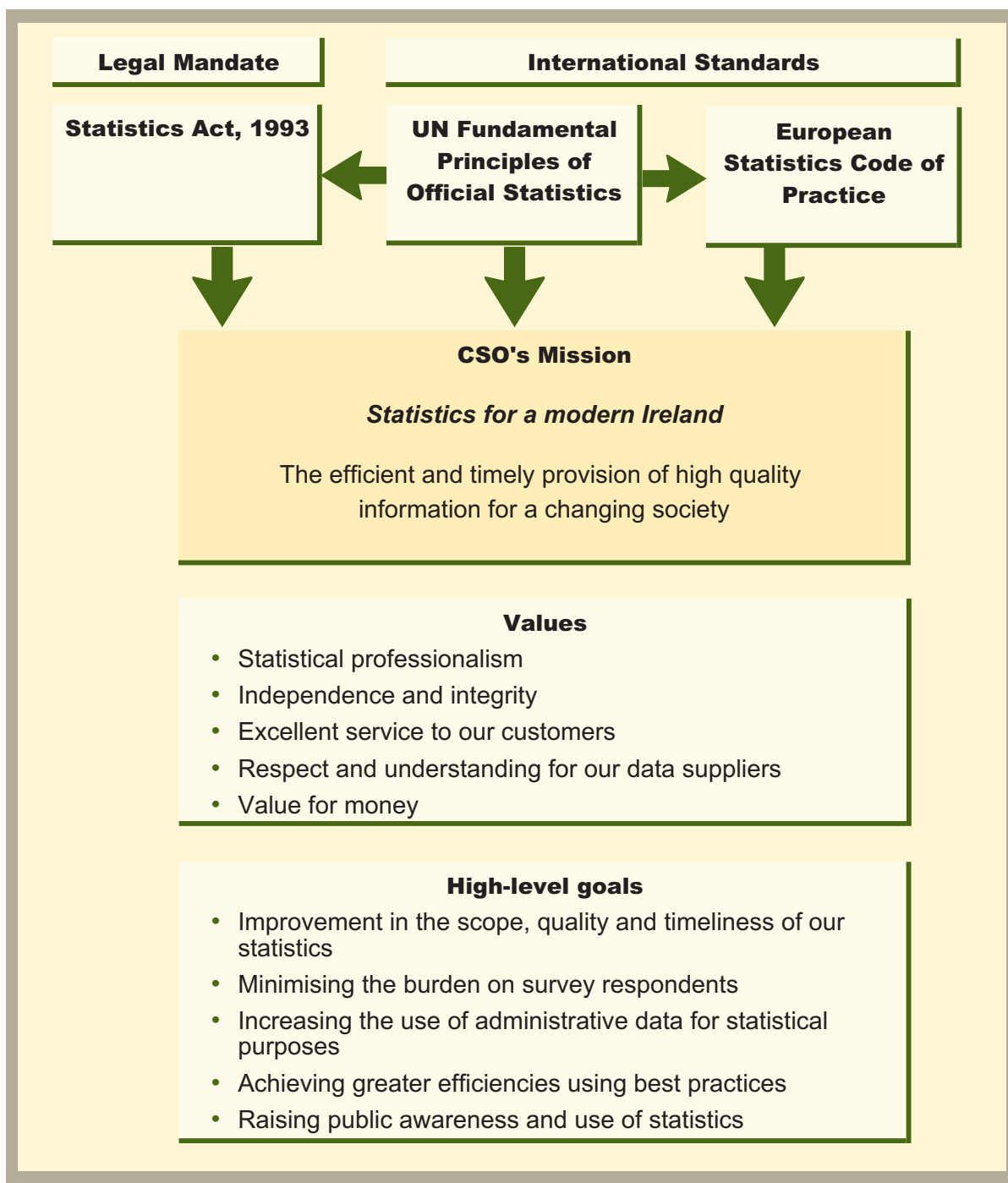
We fully subscribe to the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (see Appendix 2). The Statistics Act 1993 provides a strong institutional structure which supports the international standards and principles; and which underpins our mission, values and goals.

Our Mission, Values and Goals

Our mission statement repeats our basic mandate of providing statistical information, while emphasising a number of key points: efficiency, timeliness and quality. Above all, the mission statement recognises the need to be responsive to change.

Our values and high-level goals further expand on the mission statement. These are described in greater detail in Chapter 2.

¹ Negotiations are currently under way on a new more comprehensive framework regulation for statistics, which will replace Council Regulation (EC) No. 322/97.



Corporate Priorities

The CSO has identified eight priority areas of action to ensure that, at a high-level, our work programmes keep pace with changing needs.

<p>Developing the Irish statistical system</p>	<p>The National Statistics Board <i>Strategy for Statistics 2003-2008</i> took a whole-system view of statistics. In this context, we will advise on and support statistical work across Departments and Agencies, and continue to promote greater use of statistics in evidence-based policy. We will advance the work already under way to make greater use of administrative records for statistical purposes – as a means of producing new statistics while keeping the burden on respondents proportionate to needs.</p>
<p>New statistical needs</p>	<p>There is a growing demand for statistics, nationally and internationally. Key issues include globalisation, migration, the environment, transport, health and education. <i>Towards 2016</i> identifies specific needs in relation to labour market, prices and the lifecycle approach to policy. The sectoral plans in <i>Towards 2016</i> and other policy initiatives will also generate new demand for statistics. Departmental data / statistics strategies will also give rise to new statistical needs.</p>
<p>Managing Response Burden</p>	<p>This statement of strategy includes a coherent set of actions to minimise response burden in the context of the growing needs for statistical outputs. These include measurement of the burden placed on business, the use of electronic reporting methods, better sampling techniques, greater co-ordination between surveys, and greater statistical use of administrative records.</p>
<p>Information Technology</p>	<p>Building on the CSO's new data management system, we are developing a new IT strategy for the next five years, 2008 to 2012.</p>
<p>E-Government</p>	<p>As a specific part of our IT strategy, we will further develop effective solutions for the electronic collection of survey data and for the dissemination of user-friendly statistical tables and reports.</p>
<p>Skills and training</p>	<p>We are implementing comprehensive training programmes for our staff – in statistics, IT, management and other disciplines – to support the range of high-level skills and competencies necessary to a modern statistical service.</p>
<p>European Statistics Code of Practice</p>	<p>The Code of Practice adopted in 2005 is an integral part of our operating environment. It provides an important reference framework for quality and standards in official statistics.</p>
<p>Efficient work practices</p>	<p>We will continue to implement work practices which achieve greater efficiency and contribute to improved outputs. For example, the use of scanning has vastly improved the speed of publishing the details from the Census of Population. The 2011 Census, for which we are exploring the potential of web-based returns, will pose significant new challenges.</p>

Our Work Programmes

Chapters four and five set out the detailed objectives of this Statement of Strategy for each of the following work programmes:

Statistical programmes

- Macro-economic statistics
- Demographic and social statistics
- Business statistics

Support programmes

- Statistical Support and Innovation
- IT and Corporate Services.

These chapters include a *timeliness monitor* – i.e. our commitment to publishing statistical reports within a given timescale – together with key performance indicators for each area. These commitments and indicators reflect our high-level corporate priorities for the next three years.

Implementing this Strategy

This strategy has been prepared by the CSO in consultation with staff and with the CSO Partnership Committee. While the strategy deals mainly with corporate developments, the day-to-day running of the Office involves more detailed internal work programmes.

Divisional Action Plans (DAPs) are prepared annually, covering the main objectives to be achieved by each division. The DAPs are reviewed twice every year by the CSO Directorate. Local Business Plans are also prepared annually based on the objectives in the DAPs and covering all activities in local areas, including ongoing work and new developments.

At the end of each year, we will publish a formal progress report on this strategy, in accordance with Section 4 of the Public Service Management Act, 1997. In the progress report, we will monitor our progress in respect of the commitments given in this strategy, assess the ongoing relevance of each work programme and indicate any necessary changes in strategic objectives.

Statistics for a Modern Ireland

*The efficient and timely provision of high quality information
for a changing society*

In our mission statement, we are committed to producing independent, accurate and relevant statistics in a cost-effective manner to meet the information requirements of all our customers (i.e. government, business, EU, other international organisations, media, researchers and the public generally) in a changing economic and social environment.

Underpinning these commitments is a philosophy, culture and business sense based on a number of fundamental values: statistical professionalism; independence and integrity; excellent service to our customers; respect and understanding for our data suppliers; and value for money.

The following five high-level goals underpin our statistical and organisational support programmes. They encapsulate our fundamental objectives, in terms of *what* we intend to do over the lifetime of the strategy, *how* we plan to do it and *why*.

- *Improvement in the scope, quality and timeliness of our statistics*
- *Minimising the burden on survey respondents*
- *Increasing the use of administrative data for statistical purposes*
- *Achieving greater efficiencies using best practices*
- *Raising public awareness and use of statistics.*

The five goals reflect the National Statistics Board's thinking on the development of the Irish statistical system, in the *Strategy for Statistics 2003-2008*. The board's strategy envisaged a more integrated 'whole-system' approach across the public sector to the collection, compilation, dissemination and use of official statistics. The CSO has been playing a central role in pursuing the future statistical vision set out by the NSB.

In addition, the adoption of the European Statistics Code of Practice will help us to monitor and improve the internal and external dimensions of our work, notably in relation to our quality assurance processes.

Specific actions to achieve the five high-level goals are described in detail in the statistical and support programmes in Chapters 4 and 5. These actions will be reviewed and updated in the course of our annual business planning process.

2.1 Improvement in the scope, quality and timeliness of our statistics

There is an ever-increasing demand for statistics from a whole range of users. We are committed to addressing and satisfying this demand to the greatest extent possible, while providing value for money and excellent customer service. Our focus will be on maintaining existing outputs where there is a justifiable demand for them; and expanding the range of statistical products, where feasible, to meet user needs. We will always examine the scope for using existing sources such as administrative data before introducing new surveys.

We aim to produce high quality statistics through ensuring that our statistical outputs are relevant, reliable and timely, and that our entire statistical system conforms with the principles set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Key Features

- *Regularly reviewing our statistical outputs and developing them to ensure their relevance to current needs*
- *Expanding the range of statistics and analyses available*
- *Producing high quality results within an acceptable timeframe*
- *Measuring and reporting on the quality of our statistics*
- *Examining the scope for using existing sources before introducing new surveys*
- *Making response to surveys mandatory where necessary and appropriate.*

2.2 Minimising the burden on survey respondents

In the context of the growing demand for statistics, direct surveys will continue to be a primary means of data collection. However, better co-ordination between existing surveys will help to avoid overlaps in data requirements.

To make it easier for respondents to provide the required statistics, the CSO is continuing to develop secure electronic data reporting options.

The quality of statistics depends critically on the co-operation of our survey respondents. To foster this co-operation, it is essential that we respect our respondents, not only by ensuring that the statistical demands we place on them are kept to a reasonable level, but also by protecting the confidentiality of their data. Protection of confidential data, personal or commercial, is guaranteed by the provisions of the Statistics Act, 1993 and associated national legislation, as well as by relevant European legislation.

Our plans to extend the statistical use of administrative data sources, balanced with a more efficient approach to sample selection in direct surveys, will ensure that the statistical reporting burden is not excessive. Notwithstanding these considerations, achieving high response rates and receiving accurate information in our surveys is essential to ensure the required statistical accuracy and reliability is achieved.

The optimum use of direct data collection, supplemented by administrative data sources, should result in the availability of a greater and more coherent body of statistical information to meet user needs. It should also help us to manage reporting burden and facilitate more efficient production systems.

Key Features

- *Measuring response burden to ensure that it is not excessive*
- *Improving the co-ordination of existing surveys to avoid overlap*
- *Making greater statistical use of administrative data sources*
- *Extending the use of electronic data reporting*
- *Continuing to stringently protect the confidentiality of data provided by respondents and other data providers.*

2.3 Increasing the use of administrative data for statistical purposes

The CSO will continue to pursue the vision set out by the National Statistics Board in its *Strategy for Statistics 2003-2008*. The use of administrative data for statistical purposes will help to reduce the need for direct survey collection, thereby keeping down the reporting burden on data providers. Administrative data sources will also help to provide new or enhanced statistical outputs, without giving rise to new data collection requirements.

The CSO will actively pursue the full range of recommendations¹ on social and enterprise statistics which it has developed in recent years to implement the Board's vision. Over the course of this strategy, we will also develop a corresponding framework for energy and environmental statistics.

Key Features

- *Greater interaction with other public bodies on statistical developments*
- *Advising and supporting public bodies on the statistical use of administrative data and on their data / statistics strategies*
- *Promoting the use of common identifiers and classifications across administrative systems.*

2.4 Achieving greater efficiencies using best practices

To provide an excellent customer service and value for money, it is essential to have the right mix and level of resources available, and to organise and deploy them in the most effective manner. Efficient means of data collection, organisation, processing and dissemination are crucial. The development and commitment of all our staff is particularly important to us, as is the productive use of information and communication technologies. In this context, the introduction of our new Data Management System (DMS) for processing statistics, early in 2008, is an important step.

¹ National Statistics Board: *Developing Irish Social and Equality Statistics to Meet Policy Needs*, April 2003; and *Policy Needs for Statistical Data on Enterprises*, November 2005. These two reports, together with more detailed CSO reports on Departmental data needs and sources are available on www.cso.ie.

We will provide a safe and healthy working environment for all our staff and visitors. This involves continuing improvements, taking into account safety and access needs of all staff and visitors, including those with a disability. We will use best management practices and project management techniques in our work. We will continue to develop staff potential and performance using the Performance Management and Development System. We will also continue to improve work processes, in line with the modernisation thrust of the *Towards 2016* social partnership agreement. It is essential that management and staff continue their commitment to using the partnership framework established in the Office, in addressing the impact and management of change.

Key Features

- *Continuing to review and adjust our organisational structures and working practices within a partnership framework*
- *Developing a comprehensive HR strategy, to support progressive staff management and development policies which improve CSO performance*
- *Developing an IT strategy for 2008 to 2012, to meet the needs of the CSO and its customers*
- *Implementing the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) to the maximum benefit of the Office and our staff*
- *Ensuring the modernisation requirements of Towards 2016 are implemented*
- *Continuing compliance with Health, Safety and Welfare legislation and with the Disabilities Act.*

2.5 Raising public awareness and use of statistics

Statistics are not an end in themselves. Their real value lies in the knowledge and understanding they provide about the economic, social and environmental well-being of the country. Their further strength lies in their effective use to support analysis, good planning and decision-making by government, business and society generally.

We work to ensure that our products and services meet user needs and are readily accessible. It is vital that we make our users aware of the data and that they can rely on the independence, professionalism and integrity of our organisation and the quality of our work. The development of the Irish statistical system, as envisaged under this strategy, will play a key role in producing the body of statistical information that is required and in promoting public awareness and use of official statistics.

Key Features

- *Regular consultations with users to determine their needs*
- *Serving the needs of our users*
- *Informing users of our statistical outputs and the means used to compile them*
- *Disseminating our results widely in an open, impartial and user-friendly manner*
- *Providing easy on-line access to statistics, with links between related statistical themes and topics*
- *Providing thematic reports which bring together related data from different statistical outputs, with informative commentary on the figures*
- *Actively promoting media coverage of our statistics.*

More complex operational environment

This chapter describes the environment in which the CSO operates and outlines the key issues that this statement of strategy aims to address. Factors affecting our strategy include changes in lifestyles and society, greater deregulation, increased globalisation and the widespread availability and impact of information technologies. These factors will influence the demand for many categories of statistics, how we collect and use information, and how we make results available to the public.

Growing demand for statistics

A primary objective of the CSO is to meet the needs of both national and EU users. Statistics play a greater role today in decision-making in the public and private sectors; and our users have more detailed and sophisticated requirements than before. The policy objectives set out in the *Towards 2016* framework social partnership agreement will be a key driver of statistical information needs. Departmental data / statistics strategies will also give rise to new statistical needs. Key issues include the extension of our household surveys, to meet new needs relating to health, education and other topics; more detailed statistics on migration; the development of a more co-ordinated framework of statistics on the environment, energy and sustainable development; and the ongoing development of economic and business statistics.

EU legislation

The vast majority of new developments in official statistics come about as a direct result of EU requirements (the majority of which reflect national requirements also). The demands of the European statistical system continue to grow and influence the activities of many areas of the Office. While EU requirements are more onerous for smaller Member States like Ireland, they have a positive impact on the scope and quality of our statistical system. In particular, the European Statistics Code of Practice for Official Statistics, adopted by the EU Member States in 2005, provides a framework for measuring and developing the quality of the national system for official statistics.

Developing the Irish Statistical System

Building on the work already undertaken to implement the National Statistics Board's *Strategy for Statistics 2003-2008*, the CSO is continuing to work with Government Departments and Agencies to help co-ordinate greater statistical use of administrative data and to support evidence-based policy-making. This includes the provision by the CSO of guidance on data/statistics strategies; advice on technical matters; and direct collaboration in statistical projects. Greater statistical use of administrative data will contribute, along with other initiatives, to reducing respondent burden. The system-wide strategic issues of extending the use of personal and business identifiers, implementing a centralised business register, and developing a postcode system will, however, be vital to ensuring that we can make the best statistical use of administrative data.

The NSB strategy for 2003-2008 envisaged the development of new frameworks for social, economic and environmental statistics. While progress to date has concentrated mainly on the first two of these, we will develop a corresponding programme for environment and energy statistics, in co-operation with the relevant Departments and Agencies.

Response Burden

Minimising the burden on survey respondents is one of our high-level goals. The report of the *Business Regulation Forum*, in April 2007, highlighted the perceived impact on business of the collection of statistical data. All EU Member States are committed to reducing the overall administrative burden on business by 25% by 2012. While statistics represent only a small portion of the overall administrative burden, the CSO is committed to measuring the response burden arising from statistical surveys and ensuring that the demands placed on business are

reasonable and balanced. Developments in electronic reporting and the greater use of administrative data for statistical purposes will make an important contribution to this.

While the response to CSO household surveys has been historically very high, the task of collecting social and household statistics is becoming more difficult. This reflects broader changes in society, such as the trends towards smaller households and higher labour force participation. As we introduce new surveys, we will aim to make the greatest possible use of existing data sources, where available, and we will measure the overall response burden placed on households.

In our interactions with all data providers, we are committed to addressing the core issues of response timeliness and quality. We will aim to make our requirements as clear as possible through good questionnaire design, the development of new response channels and the provision of explanatory information. We will deal with non-response or poor quality response to statutory inquiries using the powers available under the Statistics Act, 1993.

Official Languages Act, 2003

The CSO's Official Languages Scheme 2007-2010, prepared under the Official Languages Act, 2003, was published in November 2007. The scheme sets out our commitments to the delivery of services in the Irish language.

Information Technology

The CSO has recently implemented a new Data Management System (DMS) to process its surveys. Key features of the DMS are the adoption of standard classifications/methods throughout the Office; the creation of a central dissemination database for the CSO; and the provision of corporate menu-driven solutions for each step of the statistical production process. With the growing emphasis on electronic rather than paper publications we will re-engineer our dissemination processes over the lifetime of this strategy to enable easy user access to a wider range of statistics.

Skills and Competencies

The CSO recognises the importance of maintaining a motivated and highly skilled workforce. The Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) is now embedded as the key mechanism for the management and development of individuals within our organisation. As an integral part of our human resource

strategy, we are committed to equality of opportunity for all staff. The CSO has made substantial progress in moving towards fully competitive, merit-based promotion systems in recent years and we will continue to negotiate with staff interests towards achieving fully competitive promotion systems during the lifetime of this strategy.

The demographic profile of the Office poses some important challenges over the course of this strategy. In particular, many professional staff who joined the Office in the 1970s, following Ireland's accession to the EEC, are now approaching retirement age. We need to plan for the effective maintenance of corporate knowledge and expertise, as these senior managers retire from the CSO.

Professional integrity

In 2005 the EU Member States adopted the European Statistics Code of Practice. This code sets standards for the institutional structures and for the processing and publication of statistics in the Member States (see Appendix 1) and its implementation is being monitored via a peer review process involving Eurostat and the EU national statistical offices. The CSO's institutional structures and procedures for collecting, processing and publishing statistics are recognised as being of a very high standard. Over the course of this strategy, we will review and formalise our quality management documentation and processes.

Public confidence in official statistics is vital to the CSO. Any significant errors in the published statistics have the potential to undermine the public perception of official statistics in terms of accuracy and impartiality. If errors occur, it is our policy to rectify them as speedily as possible, to explain how they arose and to take prudent steps to minimise any recurrences. This openness illustrates the importance we place on the maintenance of high professional standards.

4.1 Macro-economic Statistics

This programme covers the economic areas – National Accounts, Balance of Payments (BOP), External Trade statistics and associated satellite accounts on Health and the Environment. In recent years, the CSO has been providing greater detail on the very complex Irish economy. Among the principal features have been:

- the introduction of institutional sector accounts, financial and non-financial
- compilation of a consistent historical national accounts series
- greater detail in BOP-related series, especially on exports and imports of services.

For this strategy, we will continue to emphasise the quality and timeliness of all the principal series. We will improve the timeliness of some existing series and introduce new analyses. The demands arising under EU and ECB legislation will continue to play a major role in determining the scope and timeliness of CSO outputs. Preparation for the implementation of revisions to the international standards for macro-economic statistics will require considerable attention.

We will continue to pay particular attention to ensuring the consistency of data received from major enterprises. Globalisation presents serious challenges for the compilation of national statistics, principally because

national boundaries have a limited significance for many multinational companies.

For satellite accounts, we will work on developing mechanisms for routine compilation. This will involve collaboration with other organisations and the mainstreaming of satellite accounting topics within the relevant CSO divisions.

4.1.1 National Accounts

In National Accounts, the main objective will be to provide a further increase in the range of timely statistics to satisfy the needs of users and, in particular, of the EU Commission. The ESA95 Regulation¹ defines the main aggregates and specifies the annual and quarterly tables that are to be compiled and transmitted to Eurostat. These also include Input/Output tables and Regional Accounts. This regulation has recently been revised. While the revised regulation drops some requirements (for Ireland, mainly covering some back-data series), some others have been added.

Ireland has a number of derogations from the ESA95 and other regulations, for a limited period. It will be a significant task for the CSO to prepare for the expiry of these derogations, as well as compiling the new tables required by the revised regulation. Some of the main developments will include publication of the quarterly GDP release within 70 days of the end of the quarter, starting in March 2009; and supply to Eurostat of quarterly non-financial sector accounts in September 2008 for inclusion in EU aggregates. The former will be a more provisional estimate than that currently made at 90 days, since less of the primary data will be available. A similar difficulty arises in relation to quarterly non-financial sector accounts, which require the estimation of a number of variables not currently published at a quarterly frequency; this will probably result in more tentative estimates for these variables, at least at the outset.

Considerable work has been done on the compilation of an output-based measure of current price GDP. This will complement the two existing measures – i.e. the income and expenditure methods. It is intended ultimately to publish the three estimates in an integrated fashion but the output measure will initially be published as supplementary information.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No. 2223/96 as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No. 1392/2007.

Internationally, increasing attention is being paid to measuring the output of government. Improved measures for health and education are already incorporated in the national accounts and further work is now planned in the health area. In association with the Department of Health and Children (DoHC) and the Health Research Board (HRB), it is intended to assess and evaluate the international methodology for satellite Health Accounts and to produce a pilot set of accounts in 2009.

Discussions are currently in progress at international level (UN and other institutions) on a revision to the System of National Accounts (SNA). Preparations will have to begin over the next few years for the implementation of the new standards as well as the revised EU NACE classification. The revised SNA is likely to require some additional data collection.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Publication of quarterly GDP release within 70 days of the end of the quarter, in March 2009*
- *Compilation of quarterly non-financial sector accounts within 90 days of the end of the quarter, commencing in September 2008*
- *Introduction of an output-based measure of current price GDP*
- *Production of satellite Health Accounts by 2009.*

4.1.2 Balance of Payments (BOP) and related statistics

Over the past few years we have concentrated on maintaining the quality and timeliness of BOP-related statistics, while meeting EU and ECB requirements for additional analyses and also expanding the range of detail available to users. In addition, following on from recommendations made by the NSB¹, new arrangements have been put in place, in co-operation with the CBFSAI, for the collection and compilation of statistics for banks and investment funds. The new arrangements are currently being tested through dual collection of data on the old and new basis. This will continue for a short period but, when the new system is operational, there will be a significant reduction in the burden on respondents as one return will meet a number of requirements for CSO and CBFSAI. This development is in line with our commitment to minimise the burden on data providers.

¹ National Statistics Board: *Policy Needs for Statistical Data on Enterprises*, November 2005.

The new collection system is also designed to meet the ECB's requirement to collect Portfolio Investment statistics on a security by security basis. The data will then be matched with a Centralised Securities Database (CSDB) managed by the ECB. This should result in improved quality statistics at EU level. It is intended that arrangements for collection of Portfolio Investment data on this basis will be extended to other categories of financial enterprises during the course of this strategy.

In the case of BOP-related statistics, discussions are also currently in progress at international level on revisions to both the IMF's Balance of Payments Manual and the OECD's Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment. These revised standards will be published in 2008 and preparations will have to begin for their implementation as well as that of the revised NACE.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Meet the expanding range, quality and timeliness required for BOP-related statistics on an ongoing basis*
- *Extend the work in co-operation with the CBFSAI sufficiently by end-2010 to facilitate discontinuation of the existing CSO data collection for the majority of financial enterprises currently surveyed.*

4.1.3 External Trade

The basic goal in this area will continue to be the publication of timely external merchandise trade data of good quality. The existing processes for data collection and quality assurance require considerable improvement and it is imperative that we introduce more ambitious and sophisticated solutions, in partnership with the Revenue Commissioners who collect the data.

EU Commission proposals for a "single flow" system of measuring trade pose a serious risk to the quality of trade statistics. These proposals are currently at the research stage as part of Commission's MEETS Project for simplification of business-related data requirements. They would effectively mean Member States recording exports only and deriving imports from their partner countries' export figures. While this approach could reduce the administrative burden on business, it could also have a very detrimental effect on the quality of statistics, especially for smaller countries.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Publish detailed monthly trade statistics in twelve weeks*
- *Ensure, in partnership with the VIMA office in the Revenue Commissioners, the compilation of high quality trade statistics regardless of any changes to collection regimes.*

4.1.4 Environment

It is becoming increasingly accepted that, in addition to economic development, environmental and social concerns should be at the core of decision-making. The CSO has a role in the provision of the necessary satellite accounts to complement the National Accounts.

In the context of the environment the CSO intends to expand the work on satellite accounts by:

- (i) increasing the range of detail in the existing accounts dealing with emissions to air; and
- (ii) developing accounts relating to waste and water.

The associated data needs will be addressed where possible in partnership with The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI), the Local Authorities and other holders of data on environment and energy. New data collections may be required, depending on the quality of existing sources.

The CSO can make a contribution to Material Flow Accounting by integrating trade and Prodcom data, to quantify in physical terms the flow of materials between the natural environment and the economy. Exploratory work has commenced on compiling a trial time series of estimates.

The availability of relevant indicators will be an important issue for the next national Sustainable Development Strategy. The CSO will engage with this work, leading where appropriate, and participate in the formal co-ordination mechanisms proposed to give guidance to such work.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Continued publication of existing Emissions to Air Accounts (widened in scope where data quality permits)*
- *Publication of first set of Material Flow Accounts by end 2008*
- *Full participation in all relevant processes relating to the national Sustainable Development Strategy indicators.*

4.2 Demographic and Social Statistics

This programme includes the Census of Population (COP) and three major household surveys: the continuous Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS); the annual EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC); and the five-yearly Household Budget Survey (HBS).

Regular statistics are produced on population and migration, vital statistics, and the labour market. The Office also took over responsibility for the publication of statistics on reported crime, from An Garda Síochána, in 2006 as a prelude to the development of a wider range of statistics on crime, victimisation and the criminal justice system.

The integration of data from a variety sources, in particular data from administrative sources, to produce more comprehensive analyses of social conditions is also a core objective of the Directorate.

4.2.1 Census of Population (COP)

The rapid increase in the number of immigrants and the significant changes in the living arrangements and spatial distribution of the population are key features of the enormous demographic changes that have taken place in Ireland in recent years. The Census of Population remains the only means through which these changes can be captured accurately and comprehensively at all levels throughout the State. This is particularly the case where the objective is to monitor the situation of small population groups (e.g. ethnic minorities) or to assess developments at small area level.

A number of new questions were included in the 2006 Census for the first time. These included questions on ethnic or cultural background, engagement in voluntary activities and, for women, the number of children they had given birth to. Through the efficient use of modern processing technology, the 2006 Census publication programme was completed by November 2007. This included for the

first time the release of small area population statistics free of charge on the CSO website.

The requirement to carry out a census in 2011 will be covered by an EU Regulation and, during the course of this strategy, the main focus will be on preparing for this census. The preparation programme will cover:

- The exploration of alternative field methodologies with a particular emphasis on the potential for filing census returns over the Internet
- Consultation with users to identify new requirements and to pilot test any proposed changes in advance of making recommendations to Government on the final content of the Census questionnaire
- The development of a Geographic Information System (GIS), using the national address database (the GeoDirectory) to underpin the fieldwork and to facilitate the provision of results for different geographic layers.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Completion of assessment of changes to the field methodology by mid-2009 and development of system to implement changes by mid-2010*
- *Recommendations to Government on the content of the next Census questionnaire before the end of 2009, taking into account the views of users and the feasibility of any proposed changes*
- *Development of enhanced GIS for application in the next census before the end of 2010.*

4.2.2 Household Surveys

The continuous QNHS is already well established as a reputable source of extensive and timely data on the labour force. In addition, it has evolved as a valuable source of information on social and demographic topics. This is achieved through the inclusion of special survey modules in the quarterly survey programme. The objective over the period of the strategy will be to continue to develop and consolidate all aspects of the survey, taking into account evolving user needs.

The annual EU-SILC, which commenced in 2003, is now also firmly established as the definitive source of information on income and living conditions. We will continue to refine the dissemination programme in order to respond to user needs more precisely. With the completion of the 2007 survey, the longitudinal aspect of

the survey design, which is based on a four-year time frame, can now be analysed as an ongoing integral part of the survey outputs.

While these two surveys provide a wide range of timely data on Irish households, it is now clear that they will have to be supplemented by an additional survey instrument in order to fully meet emerging national and EU demands for more data across the social domain. These demands include new or enhanced requirements for information on the following topics: adult education; health status; crime and victimisation; travel; and time use. A re-engineering of the Household Budget Survey (HBS) is also envisaged as part of the development of a new system of surveys. This would involve moving from the current large-scale survey undertaken every five years to a smaller annual rolling survey.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Ongoing development and consolidation of the QNHS and EU-SILC surveys to meet the needs of users*
- *Publication in the first half of 2009 of statistics based on longitudinal analyses of the EU-SILC surveys undertaken since 2004*
- *Introduction of a new system of household surveys, subject to funding agreement, in 2009.*

4.2.3 Population, Migration and Vital Statistics

The rapid increase in Ireland's population, driven by high levels of immigration, has placed a high priority on the availability of high quality annual data on the population and migration. In the absence of a comprehensive population registration system, and in the context of greater mobility and more flexible living arrangements, this presents a significant statistical challenge. When benchmarked against the results from the Censuses of Population, the annual estimates produced over the past decade have been of a high standard and, as a result, the post-census revisions have been relatively modest. The priority will therefore be to maintain this record over the current inter-censal period, through the continued effective use of all available indicators and data sources.

The project to introduce the ICD 10 (*International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision*) system for the classification of deaths was completed recently and cause of death data based on the new system were published for the first time on the release of the statistics for the first quarter of 2007. The quality and completeness of information recorded on death certificates has improved and the

CSO will initiate a special project in 2008 to match deaths recorded in the year immediately following the 2006 Census with the individual Census returns. If this proves successful the resultant data file will provide the basis for a comprehensive socio-demographic analysis of mortality on a scale not previously possible in Ireland.

Population and labour force projections based, at national and regional levels, on the most recent Census results are being finalised and will be published in early 2008. An updated Life Table will also be published in 2008.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Continued exploitation of all available sources to provide high quality information on population change and migration*
- *Initiation of a special project in 2008 to match mortality and Census data*
- *Publication of updated Life Tables and population and labour force projections during the course of 2008.*

4.2.4 Earnings and Employment Statistics

As well as the QNHS, a range of detailed employment-related data is collected in surveys of business. The first results of the new quarterly Earnings, Hours Employment and Labour Costs (EHECS) survey were published in August 2007, covering the Industrial and Financial sectors. The priority over the course of this strategy will be to extend this survey economy-wide, to give a comprehensive picture of employment conditions and labour costs.

The results of the second National Employment Survey (NES), in respect of 2006, were published in December 2007. This will continue as an annual survey, to provide a firm platform for examining the structure and quality of employment on an ongoing basis.

These two new surveys place an additional burden on respondents and on enterprises in particular. To alleviate this, the CSO has worked with a number of software providers to incorporate as far as possible the statistical demands as modules within standard payroll systems. In this way, the statistical requirements can be met more easily, reducing the burden on business.

Key Performance Indicators

- *The systematic extension of the EHECS survey to cover all relevant sectors of the economy from the 1st quarter of 2008*
- *Further development and refinement of the NES to provide a firm basis analysing the structure and quality of employment in Ireland*
- *Further development of payroll systems to meet statistical requirements and facilitate online response to earnings surveys.*

4.2.5 Crime and Victimization Statistics

Towards the end of 2006 the CSO assumed responsibility for preparing and publishing quarterly and annual statistics on recorded crime. The initial objective of re-producing the existing quarterly data on headline crimes was successfully achieved and users generally welcomed the CSO involvement. In conjunction with an Expert Advisory Group, a new crime classification system has been developed. This will provide a more comprehensive and systematic coverage of reported crimes and will be introduced for the quarterly and annual series in 2008.

As part of the QNHS programme of social modules, three surveys on crime and victimisation have been undertaken – in 1998, 2003 and 2006. These surveys have provided valuable new information on the incidence and impact of high volume crimes such as theft, robbery and assault. In addition, information has been collected on the public perception and related fear of crime and on confidence in the performance of the Gardaí. The QNHS has a limited capacity to collect information of this nature and there is a need to develop dedicated surveys. These will need to expand on the existing modules and also cover more sensitive and difficult areas such as sexual and domestic violence. The development of these surveys will be undertaken as part of the programme, outlined above, to introduce a new household survey instrument.

The integrated development of statistics on the wider criminal justice system (i.e. courts, prisons and probationary services) will also be advanced as a priority issue over the course of this strategy.

Key Performance Indicators

- *The introduction of a new classification system for the recording of reported crime with the release of the annual figures for 2006 in early 2008*
- *The phased introduction of a new more comprehensive system of crime and victimisation surveys from 2009 onwards (in conjunction with the overall plan for developing household surveys)*
- *The development and publication of integrated statistics on the wider criminal justice system over the course of this strategy.*

4.2.6 Social Statistics Integration

A major focus within this area will be to work with the main Government Departments concerned with social matters in order to progress the implementation of their respective data strategies in a co-ordinated and prioritised manner. A key objective will be to continue to realise the statistical potential of administrative records to the fullest extent.

During the course of the last strategy a number of thematic reports, bringing together a range of data on a particular topic in a structured manner, were produced as a complement to the more general annual report on *Measuring Ireland's Progress*. These have included reports on gender, age and equality. It is proposed to further refine and develop this programme over the course of this strategy in order to provide policy makers and other users with a comprehensive range of relevant information to meet their various needs.

Linking data from different sources, whether based on surveys or administrative data, is also a high priority objective in the integration of social statistics. As a key component in this strategy the Personal Public Service Number (PPSN) is now being collected routinely on a voluntary basis in the major household surveys conducted by the CSO. A very informative statistical report on the employment history of foreign nationals was published in December 2007, based on a new analysis by the CSO of PPSN data from the Department of Social and Family Affairs and of P35 returns from the Revenue Commissioners. This exercise clearly demonstrated the potential of data linking and further projects of this nature will be actively pursued.

A post-census National Disability Survey was undertaken for the first time towards the end of 2006 and results, which will be linked to the Census data on disability, will be published in early 2008.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Measurable progress in the co-ordinated implementation of data strategies*
- *Continued development of the programme of thematic reports*
- *The identification and implementation of relevant statistical projects to link data from different sources*
- *Publication of results from the National Disability Survey in the first half of 2008.*

4.3 Business Statistics

Business statistics is a wide area, comprising agriculture, manufacturing, construction, services, transport, tourism, enterprise demography, and price statistics. There are significant ongoing developments in all of these areas, with the demand for business statistics generated from a combination of EU and national data needs. The CSO's strategy for business statistics reflects these current and anticipated demands.

The EU Commission and the ECB generate significant demands for business statistics. New EU regulations have come into force since 2006 on Short Term Statistics, the classification of Economic Activity (NACE Rev. 2) and Foreign Affiliate Trade Statistics. The adoption of the NACE Rev. 2 classification will have significant impacts on the work programmes of industrial, services, construction and wholesale price statistics over the lifetime of this strategy.

Regulations on Structural Business Statistics, Business Registers and Job Vacancies will be enacted in the near future. Additional legal acts on Tourism, Road Vehicle-Kilometres and Passenger Mobility are also in the pipeline. These statistical requirements reflect the growing importance of services and globalisation for the European economy.

Within Ireland, there is also a growing demand for business data, from the public sector to inform policy and from research agencies, the education sector and the business community. The need for additional data on the construction, transport, tourism and services sectors has been clearly articulated by users, as has the need for improved information on small businesses, sustainability indicators, earnings, employment, cross-border activity, rural development and regional detail.

The Business Regulation Forum reported in April 2007 that regulation, including statistical collection, causes a significant perceived burden for small businesses in Ireland. The EU has agreed a target¹ of reducing administrative burden by 25% by 2012.

Reconciling these new statistical demands with the need to minimise burden poses a significant challenge for the CSO. In autumn 2007, the CSO began a new business statistics integration programme, supported by a new management structure. This is designed to better integrate data from business surveys, to make greater use of administrative data and to involve support areas in innovative projects which contribute to meeting our high-level goals relating to statistical outputs and response burden. An important task will be to minimise overlap between business surveys and reduce questionnaire length and complexity. The CSO is also examining the potential for using administrative data sources to supplement the data collected in business surveys. The potential to make it easier to respond to surveys by incorporating statistical reporting modules into accountancy software products (along the lines adopted for the EHECS survey) is currently being examined.

The CSO is actively promoting a co-ordinated statistical infrastructure across the public sector, in line with the NSB strategy for statistics. The NSB's report on *Policy Needs for Statistical Data on Enterprises* identified the adoption of a unique business identifier across public sector agencies as a key feature of a co-ordinated statistical infrastructure. This has the potential to reduce data demands on business and to allow richer statistical analysis of existing data holdings. The achievement of this objective depends on the involvement of other Departments and Agencies.

Central to the development of all business statistics is a comprehensive and accurate register of businesses. In recent years, the CSO has improved the coverage and quality of its Central Business Register, making greater use of Revenue data and conducting regular surveys of new businesses. These improvements provide a better basis for surveys of business and for co-ordination between surveys. They will also help the CSO to publish more detailed annual statistics on business demography, including additional tables in the thematic report on *Small Business in Ireland*. A new EU Regulation will require the register to cover all sectors (including agriculture) and will require more data on enterprise groups.

¹ COM(2007)23: *Action Programme for reducing administrative burdens in the European Union*.

The use of administrative data sources, to complement or replace statistical surveys, is being examined across several statistical domains. Between now and 2010 a number of new series will be introduced, using existing data as the primary data source e.g. airport-airport routes data, port-freight traffic and house purchase price indices.

An EU Regulation requiring a Census of Agriculture in 2010 is currently being finalised. The statistical potential of DAFF registers will be evaluated in advance of this census and the existing system of farm surveys will be re-designed to optimise the utilisation of available administrative registers. The potential of providing rural development and sustainability indicators from existing survey and administrative data sources will also be examined.

The CSO will also begin compiling and disseminating a Response Burden Barometer, which will quantify the burden imposed on business by CSO. The barometer will allow the CSO to assess whether our innovations have been successful in reducing burden to business.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Establish a Response Burden Barometer, published on the CSO website, demonstrating the burden imposed on business by CSO surveys.*
- *Compile a number of new price indices, including new house purchase price and house building cost indices and producer price indices for business services.*
- *Launch revised economic activity classification NACE Rev.2 across all relevant business surveys for reference year 2008 and back-cast data sufficient for time-series analysis.*
- *Dissemination of enterprise demography statistics during 2008 and participation in the EuroGroups Register project from 2008 onwards.*
- *Expand coverage of annual construction and manufacturing business surveys to include all enterprise size classes, down to and including sole traders.*
- *Introduce or improve a number of short-term series, including Production in Construction, Services Turnover Index, Capital Assets in Services, Stocks in Services, Inbound Tourism and Overseas Travel.*

- *Minimise burden to business (including farms), through increased use of administrative data, increased use of Small Business Forms, more efficient sampling, re-use of data collected elsewhere in CSO and other technology solutions.*
- *Compile more user-friendly statistical reports, such as a new transport statistics omnibus and other reports on Outbound Tourism from Ireland, Family Businesses and Retailing in Ireland.*
- *Develop a set of rural development/sustainability indicators using existing data within the CSO and administrative data in the wider public sector.*
- *Conduct a Census of Agriculture in 2010 and re-design the annual June and December agricultural surveys to optimise the statistical use of data from DAFF registers.*

4.4 Timeliness Monitor

4.4.1 General Statistical and Thematic Reports

Publication	Frequency	Edition	Current Timeliness		
			Published Within	International Standard	Target for 2010
Month of publication					
Periodicals					
Statistical Yearbook	Year	2007	Oct 2007	n/r	Nov
Ireland North and South	Occasional	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
Thematic Reports					
Information Society Statistics	Year	2007	Mar 2008	n/r	Dec
Small Business in Ireland	Year	2007	May 2007	n/r	Mar
Construction and Housing in Ireland	Biennial	2006	July 2006	n/r	July
Transport Statistics	Year	2006	Dec 2007	n/r	Dec 2008
Family Business	Occasional	2005	Feb 2008	n/r	n/r
Measuring Ireland's Progress	Year	2007	May 2008	n/r	Apr
Women and Men in Ireland	Year	2007	Dec 2007	n/r	Dec
Equality in Ireland	Five-yearly	2007	Nov 2007	n/r	n/r
Ageing in Ireland	Five-yearly	2007	Aug 2007	n/r	n/r
Regional Quality of Life	Five-yearly	2008	Jun 2008	n/r	n/r
National Disability Survey					
Preliminary	Occasional	2006	Jun 2008	n/r	n/r
Detailed	Occasional	2006	Dec 2008	n/r	n/r

4.4.2 Economic Statistics

Publication	Frequency	Edition	Current Timeliness		
			Published Within	International Standard	Target for 2010
<i>Days unless otherwise stated</i>					
Economic Statistics					
Balance of Payments	Quarter	Q4 2007	84	90	90
International Investment Position	Year	2006	43 weeks	39 weeks	39 weeks
External Debt	Quarter	Q4 2007	90	90	90
Resident Holdings of Foreign Portfolio Securities	Year	31 Dec 2006	43 weeks	39 weeks	39 weeks
Foreign Direct Investment ¹	Year	2006	56 weeks	91 weeks	52 weeks
Service Exports and Imports	Year	2006	52 weeks	39 weeks	39 weeks
Annual National Accounts					
Summary Results	Year	2006	27 weeks	n/r	26 weeks
Publication	Year	2006	34 weeks	39 weeks	34 weeks
Quarterly National Accounts ²	Quarter	Q4 2007	80	70	70
Institutional Sector Accounts					
Financial	Year	2006	48 weeks	39 weeks	26 weeks
Non-Financial	Year	2006	43 weeks	39 weeks	39 weeks
County Income & Regional GDP	Year	2005	112 weeks	104 weeks	104 weeks
Supply and Use Tables	Year	2001 & 2002	238 weeks	156 weeks	156 weeks
External Trade					
Detailed release	Month	Dec 2007	80	70	80
Environmental Statistics					
Environmental Accounts (Emissions to Air)	Year	2005	73 weeks	n/r	65 weeks

¹ Eurostat's deadline for Foreign Direct Investment stocks (i.e. balance sheet) data is 21 months (91 weeks) after the reference date; its deadline for the corresponding transactions data is 9 months after the reference year.

² Ireland has a derogation to 90 days for Quarterly National Accounts.

4.4.3 Social and Demographic Statistics

Publication	Frequency	Edition	Current Timeliness		
			Published Within	International Standard	Target for 2010
<i>Days unless otherwise stated</i>					
Labour Market					
Live Register					
Live Register	Month	Apr 2008	11	7	7
Age by Duration	Half Year	Oct 2007	42	n/r	28
Industrial Disputes Analysis	Quarter	Q4 2007	56	91	56
QNHS	Quarter	Q4 2007	70	90	70
EU-SILC	Year	2006	47 weeks	40 weeks	47 weeks
Household Budget Survey (HBS)	Five-yearly	2004/05	78 weeks	n/r	n/r
Vital Statistics					
Release	Quarter	Q2 2007	28 weeks	n/r	17 weeks
Yearly Summary (Registration Data)	Year	2006	26 weeks	52 weeks	17 weeks
Publication ¹	Year	2004	104 weeks	78 weeks	95 weeks
Irish Babies' Names	Year	2006	26 weeks	n/r	17 weeks
Marriages	Year	2005	78 weeks	n/r	28 weeks
Earnings & Employment Costs					
Public Sector					
Employment	Quarter	Q3 2007	19 weeks	n/r	-
Earnings	Quarter	Q3 2007	19 weeks	n/r	-
Distribution & Services Earnings	Quarter	Q2 2007	98	n/r	-
National Employment Survey	Year	2006	164 weeks	78 weeks	52 weeks
Earnings & Labour Costs					
Preliminary	Quarter	Q3 2007	180	90	90
Final	Quarter	Q2 2007	39 weeks	26 weeks	26 weeks
Crime and Criminal Justice					
Crime Incidence	Quarter	Q1 2008	28	n/r	28
Garda Recorded Crime Statistics	Year	2006	69 weeks	n/r	52 weeks

¹ The timetable for the annual Vital Statistics Publication depends on the time limits allowed for registering vital events.

4.4.4 Business Statistics

Current Timeliness					
Publication	Frequency	Edition	Published Within	International Standard	Target for 2010
<i>Days unless otherwise stated</i>					
Industry					
Production & Turnover	Month	Feb 2008	41	45	41
Industrial Stocks	Quarter	Q3 2007	17 weeks	n/r	15 weeks
Capital Assets in Industry	Quarter	Q3 2007	17 weeks	n/r	15 weeks
CIP Early estimate	Year	2006	52 weeks	43 weeks	43 weeks
CIP publication	Year	2005	99 weeks	78 weeks	73 weeks
Prodcom	Year	2006	52 weeks	26 weeks	26 weeks
Building					
Employment	Month	Jan 2008	42	60	42
Earnings	Quarter	Q4 2007	77	90	84
Planning Permissions	Quarter	Q4 2007	90	90	90
Census	Year	2005	82 weeks	78 weeks	78 weeks
Production in Building and Construction Index					
First Estimates	Quarter	Q3 2007	22 weeks	60	60
Final	Quarter	Q2 2007	35 weeks	17 weeks	17 weeks
Services					
Retail Sales Index					
Provisional	Month	Jan 2008	49	n/r	40
Final	Month	Dec 2007	77	90	71
Annual Services Inquiry	Year	2005	95 weeks	78 weeks	78 weeks
Overseas Travel	Month	Jan 2008	49	n/r	49
Tourism & Travel	Quarter	Q3 2007	77	90	70
Tourism & Travel	Year	2006	84	182	84
Household Travel Survey	Quarter	Q3 2007	98	n/r	84
Road Freight Inquiry	Year	2006	39 weeks	21 weeks	32 weeks
Statistics of Port Traffic	Year	2006	26 weeks	34 weeks	26 weeks
Vehicle Licensing					
Final	Month	Feb 2008	31	n/r	31
Annual	Year	2007	49	n/r	35
Prices					
CPI	Month	Mar 2008	8 - 16	17-19	8-16
CPI - Average Price Analysis	Half Year	Nov 2007	15	n/r	30
WPI	Month	Mar 2008	20	45	25

4.4.5 Census of Population

Publication	Frequency	Edition	Current Timeliness		Target for 2010
			Published Within	International Standard	
<i>Days unless otherwise stated</i>					
Population/Migration Estimates (April)	Year	2007	33 weeks	n/r	70

4.4.6 Agricultural Statistics

Publication	Frequency	Edition	Current Timeliness		Target for 2010
			Published Within	International Standard	
<i>Days unless otherwise stated</i>					
Agriculture					
Prices					
Inputs/Outputs	Month	Feb 2008	56	49	49
Preliminary Estimates	Year	2007	-61	n/r	-61
Fishery	Year	2004	117 weeks	n/r	80 weeks
Land Sales	Quarter	Q1 2005	21 weeks	n/r	21 weeks
Output, Input, Income					
Advance Estimates	Year	2007	-24	-28	-21
Preliminary Estimates	Year	2007	39	28	35
Final Estimates	Year	2006	26 weeks	39 weeks	26 weeks
Regional Accounts	Year	2006	48 weeks	n/r	45 weeks
June Crops and Livestock Survey					
Provisional	Annual	2007	21 weeks	15 weeks	15 weeks
Final	Annual	2006	56 weeks	20 weeks	20 weeks
Labour	Annual	2001 - 2002	48 weeks	34 weeks	48 weeks
Crop Production	Year	2006	29 weeks	39 weeks	29 weeks
December Survey	Annual	Dec 2007	24 weeks	24 weeks	24 weeks
Size of Herd	Biennial	2003 & 2005	106 weeks	n/r	65 weeks
June Pig Survey	Annual	2007	60	105	56
Milk Statistics	Month	Mar 2008	30	45	31
Earnings Survey	Triennial	Sept 2001	31 weeks	n/r	30 weeks
Slaughterings	Month	Mar 2008	30	60	30
Supply Balances					
Meat	Annual	2002	29 weeks	n/r	29 weeks
Milk	Annual	2005	37 weeks	n/r	30 weeks
Cereals	Annual	2006 - 2007	43 weeks	n/r	43 weeks

Our Organisational Support Programmes

Chapter 5

Our statistical outputs depend on the availability of a wide range of support services, both technical and administrative. These are organised into the following two broad areas: Statistical Support and Innovation; and IT and Corporate Services.

5.1 Statistical Support and Innovation

A strong statistical support network is a key element in implementing this strategy. To provide this support, the CSO established a new Statistical Support and Innovation directorate in 2007. Key features of the statistical infrastructure include:

- Identification and implementation of best international practices in relation to statistical methodology;
- The development of the Irish Statistical System;
- Quality assurance and audit;
- The development and maintenance of a register for all businesses in the State;
- Electronic data capture and dissemination of statistics; and
- The management and use of statistical classifications.

The following sections outline the broad work plan for the new directorate over the next three years.

5.1.1 The Irish Statistical System

In its 2004-2006 strategy, the CSO prioritised the development of a whole-system approach to the production and use of official statistics, reflecting the NSB's *Strategy for Statistics 2003-2008*. Many of the building blocks for a co-ordinated statistical infrastructure have been put in place and the work of developing this infrastructure will continue over the course of the present strategy.

The Government requires Departments to develop data / statistics strategies which are aligned with their Departmental strategy statements. The provision of support to public bodies on statistical issues is an important priority for the CSO. A number of CSO statistical personnel are working in Government Departments at present and we will continue to develop this statistical support network. Where relevant, we will also implement joint statistical projects with public bodies (along the lines, for example, of the joint conduct by CSO and Forfás of the 2006 Community Innovation Survey).

Our statistical programmes reflect the high-level goals of improving the scope, quality and timeliness of our statistics; minimising the burden on survey respondents; and increasing the statistical use of administrative data. These are complementary goals, which present many challenges. Administrative data sources are already being successfully used to produce many statistical outputs, in line with the CSO's protocol on data integration¹. The statistical analysis of administrative data sources is greatly enhanced when standardised classifications (e.g. geographical, sector etc.) and identifiers are used. The use of the PPSN in administrative data holdings and in statistical analysis is now well established. However, the absence of a unique business identifier across public sector agencies is a weakness of the administrative and statistical infrastructure. In line with the NSB recommendations on this point, the CSO will advocate for the development and implementation of a unique business identifier². If adopted, the use of a unique business identifier can facilitate a broader range of statistical analyses and, at the same time, make an important contribution to reducing the burden on business.

¹ The CSO Data Protocol sets out our rules and procedures for statistical data linkage and integration. The protocol has been approved by the Data Protection Commissioner. It can be found at: www.cso.ie/aboutus/documents/cso_data_protocol.doc

² See also Business Statistics work programme in Section 4.3 of this strategy.

This statement of strategy foresees a wider range of statistical reports and analyses being published by the CSO. These will include thematic reports, which will be of assistance in evidence-based policy making. Examples include the reports on Small Business, Information Society and Telecommunications, and Construction and Housing. These thematic reports draw on statistical and administrative data sources.

Similarly, we aim to make data from a wider range of sources available online. In this regard, the CSO is developing a new web portal called StatCentral. This will provide information on and links to Ireland's official statistics, bringing together a range of statistics produced by the public sector.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Publication of aggregate statistical data on the basis of data matching exercises;*
- *Supporting all Government Departments in the implementation of their Data Statistics Strategies;*
- *Launch of the StatCentral portal for official statistics in February 2008;*
- *Extension of StatCentral to cover the full range of Irish official statistics before the end of 2009*
- *Advocating for the development of a unique business identifier and system-wide business register, with a view to its implementation. The achievement of this KPI will depend on the co-operation of those Departments/Agencies holding business data;*
- *Production of thematic releases on a variety of topics from statistical and administrative data holdings.*

5.1.2 Managing response burden

As indicated in sections 4.3 and 5.1.1, the CSO sees the adoption of a unique business identifier as an important requirement for a future statistical infrastructure, which can coherently reduce the burdens placed on business. This is a system-wide issue.

Within the CSO we will develop strategies and methodologies to facilitate better use of data across CSO business surveys (e.g. by linking data from annual and sub-annual surveys). Our Business Statistics work programme contains a commitment to calculate and publish a Response Burden Barometer. We will also use the CSO Central Business Register to manage the burden being placed on individual businesses and target our strategies towards those most affected.

Business data held by other public bodies has considerable potential from a statistical perspective. Over the lifetime of this strategy we will examine these data holdings and where appropriate implement strategies to use administrative data to meet statistical data requirements.

Our e-Government initiatives also have a role to play in helping to minimise response burden and we will focus on the development of user-friendly mechanisms to facilitate the provision of data to the CSO in an electronic format.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Exploiting existing data holdings, administrative and statistical, to meet statistical requirements;*
- *Usage of structural business statistics to meet sub-annual (short-term statistics) statistical requirements;*
- *Implementation of e-Government initiatives to provide business with a user-friendly mechanism for the provision of statistical data.*

5.1.3 Development of the CSO Business Register

The CSO's Central Business Register is at the centre of our system for collecting statistics on business. We are continuing to improve the coverage and data quality of the register, by making greater use of Revenue data and conducting regular surveys of business activity. This is an ongoing process and we will continue to identify appropriate data sources and methods to update and maintain the relevance and accuracy of the register.

Two major EU developments will have an impact on the business register during the lifetime of this strategy – the new regulation on statistical business registers and the implementation of the NACE Rev. 2 classification of economic activities.

The business register regulation requires full coverage of all economic sectors (including agriculture) and coverage of enterprise groups. The regulation on NACE Rev. 2 requires that the new classification be used in business registers

from January 2008. Both the existing (NACE Rev. 1.1) and the new classification (NACE Rev. 2) will be stored on the register until 2011. This will facilitate the transition by business survey areas from the old to the new NACE classification. In addition, the forthcoming Structural Business Statistics regulation will require annual statistics on business demography to be transmitted to Eurostat.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Continued improvement of the quality of the information held on the register;*
- *Broaden the scope/coverage of the CSO Central Business Register to meet EU and national requirements;*
- *Dissemination of statistics on business demography during 2008.*

5.1.4 Dissemination of data

In addition to the development of StatCentral, the web portal for Irish official statistics, a number of other projects will also further improve the way the CSO disseminates official statistics.

Our website (www.cso.ie) is now the primary point of contact for the public when accessing our statistics. In that context the CSO will phase out the production of statistical releases on paper and shift the emphasis to web dissemination. The essential components of our current releases (commentary, tables, background notes) will continue to be constituent parts of the new design. This change will allow us to improve the quality of the service to our users, by providing them with the facility to extract the published tables into a format which they can use for their own subsequent analysis. In addition we will provide more “visual” analysis of our data in the electronic releases, which will help to identify patterns and trends in a more effective manner.

A “print on demand” option will remain for those users who require hard copies of our statistical releases. We will continue to publish, in hard-copy format, flagship publications such as the *Statistical Yearbook* and *Measuring Ireland’s Progress*.

The Database Direct section of the CSO website is an important and relatively recent development. Aggregate data is presented in a way that allows users to generate customised statistical tables in a user-friendly manner and to download them in a format of their choice (e.g. Excel, CSV, HTML). Database Direct will be the key element of our dissemination strategy into the future and all data being disseminated from the CSO will be available through this dissemination channel.

The tools and IT infrastructure required for online publishing of interactive statistical tables¹ are being made available by the CSO to other Government Departments and Agencies. The CSO provides this online hosting service as part of our Database Direct dissemination service and we will continue to support public sector organisations that wish to avail of this facility. To support the integration and comparison of data from various sources we will continue to promote the use of standard classifications and methodologies for managing and disseminating aggregate statistics.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Introduction of electronic release on a phased basis from 2009;*
- *Dissemination of all CSO statistics via Database Direct;*
- *Continued development and expansion of the online statistical data hosting service for public sector organisations.*

5.1.5 Quality assurance

The Quality Assurance and Audit function in the CSO is focussed primarily on processes and outputs. The CSO has always recognised that data quality is of critical importance in maintaining public confidence in official statistics and we will build on our traditional data quality arrangements over the lifetime of this strategy. Formalising these procedures within a quality framework will be one of the main tasks and will involve the development of standard quality reports for our processes and outputs.

The CSO faces a more complex set of requirements and expectations than heretofore both in relation to its own surveys and supporting the broader Irish statistical system. To meet these requirements, we need to maintain a strong methodological capability. This will support our strategy in relation to statistical processes, data integration, reducing response burden and supporting the use of data for research purposes. It will also be a key element in implementing the European Statistics Code of Practice.

¹ Currently three public sector organisations (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Department of Education and Science and Sustainable Energy Ireland) have fully functioning online databases hosted by the CSO.

The European Statistics Code of Practice sets out the principles by which National Statistical Institutes within the EU should operate. The Code of Practice complements the Statistics Act, 1993 under which the CSO operates and covers a broad range of issues such as professional independence, statistical confidentiality, quality, impartiality and objectivity.

Over the next 2-3 years we will focus our methodological unit on establishing office standards for statistical methodology based on best international practice. Some of the key issues include sample selection, which can make a significant contribution to the minimisation of response burden, calibration techniques and error estimation.

In addition to the development and implementation of office standards the unit will undertake specific statistical projects with business areas within the CSO. Workshops will be held to provide information and training on statistical methods on an ongoing basis. Assistance will also be provided in the production of the standard quality reports which survey owners will be required to produce and update.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Develop and implement Office wide methodologies for a range of statistical processes;*
- *Provide statistical workshops and training on statistical methods to staff;*
- *Implement a formal policy for quality reporting;*
- *Carry out regular reviews of the processes/outputs of all areas of the Office.*

5.2 IT and Corporate Services

The delivery of a high-quality statistical service depends on the availability within the CSO of the necessary resources: motivated and highly skilled staff; modern ICT systems; and strong administrative support systems. In the context of the broader Irish Statistical System, our HR and IT strategies need to address external as well as internal challenges. Our ultimate aim is to ensure that we continue to provide an excellent service to our customers.

5.2.1 Human Resources

We recognise the importance of maintaining motivated and highly skilled staff. We will continue to implement a comprehensive training programme, to support the full range of skills and competencies needed by a modern statistical service. This will include an integrated statistical training programme, induction and management development training programmes, and extensive training in IT.

The Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) is the central mechanism for the management and development of individual staff; and this will continue to be a key part of our corporate planning process. As an integral part of our human resource strategy we are committed to equality of opportunity for all staff. We have made substantial progress towards fully competitive merit-based promotion systems and we aim to complete this process during the lifetime of this strategy. We will also use direct recruitment to fill particular skills gaps.

Over the lifetime of this strategy, we will update our HR strategy and policies, to reflect the changing needs of the CSO and the broader Irish Statistical System. In line with our high-level goal of achieving greater efficiencies using best practices and the broader modernisation agenda of *Towards 2016*, we will continue to identify and implement improved and innovative work practices. Our Partnership Committee has a key role in this and we will aim to extend its involvement in important strategic and operational improvements.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Prepare an updated HR strategy to support the strategic needs of the CSO and the Irish Statistical System by end-2008*
- *Update and implement HR policies in line with our overall strategy*
- *Deliver training programmes to meet the IT, statistical and managerial skills needed by the CSO*
- *Continue to utilise PMDS as a core support for managing performance and personal development*
- *Complete the move towards fully competitive merit-based promotion*
- *Identify skills needs requiring direct recruitment and implement relevant recruitment competitions*

- *Implement the modernisation provisions of Towards 2016 and other relevant agreements*
- *Implement new and innovative work practices, in line with our high-level goals and corporate priorities*
- *Extend the partnership agenda to consideration of important strategic and operational issues.*

5.2.2 Information Technology

The implementation from 2008 of the CSO's new Data Management System (DMS) marks the completion of a major project to upgrade our internal data processing systems. The DMS is a consolidated survey processing system, incorporating a central statistical database and menu-driven solutions for each step of the statistical production process. A key feature of the DMS is the use of standard classifications and methods. We are re-engineering our dissemination processes, using the DMS, with a greater emphasis on electronic rather than paper publication.

Information technology is central to achieving our corporate objectives – particularly in relation to data collection, statistical processing, data integration and the reduction of response burden. To support these objectives, we are upgrading the statistical analysis software used by the CSO, to incorporate business intelligence capability.

We are implementing ITIL-based governance processes, to support high quality IT services. To ensure that our IT services continue to be aligned with the CSO's long-term business and customer needs, we are developing a new IT strategy and implementation plan for the next five years, 2008 to 2012.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Implement the new Data Management System (DMS) as the CSO's core system for statistical data processing from 2008 onwards*
- *Upgrade our statistical analysis software, from 2008 to 2010, to incorporate business intelligence capability*

-
- *Develop an IT strategy and implementation plan to meet the CSO's strategic requirements for the period 2008 to 2012*
 - *Deliver IT services to support our new statistical output and innovation work programmes*
 - *Implement ITIL-based governance and service delivery processes, to support high-quality IT services*
 - *Monitor and report on the delivery of our IT services, using appropriate metrics.*

5.2.3 Administrative Services

The CSO has three main office locations – in Cork, Rathmines and Swords. We aim to provide a good working environment for staff and visitors. Our policy is to respond to work environment issues promptly and to work in a collaborative and systematic way to promote employee health, safety and welfare. This includes continuous improvements, taking into account safety and access needs of staff and visitors, including those with a disability. Over the lifetime of this strategy, we will also incorporate greater awareness of the environment and energy conservation into our buildings management, in consultation with the OPW and in line with the *National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012*.

Our aim is to ensure that the CSO provides value for money and implements best management practices. To this end, we have incorporated a range of financial and non-financial performance indicators into our management procedures at divisional and corporate levels. Our management information systems also include a comprehensive approach to risk management.

The principal output indicator for the CSO is our Timeliness Monitor, in respect of statistical releases and publications. Over the course of this statement of strategy, we plan to extend the scope and desktop availability of management and performance indicators.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Maintain and refurbish CSO buildings and other infrastructure on a cyclical basis, to meet our business, customer and accessibility requirements*
- *Implement the Office Safety Statements on an ongoing basis and support the needs of Safety Representatives and the members of the Health Safety and Welfare Committee*
- *Implement energy efficiency improvements in our buildings, in consultation with OPW*
- *Continue to provide management information and extend the scope and desktop availability of our management and performance indicators*
- *Incorporate accrual accounting information into our management reports.*

5.2.4 Customer Service

We aim to provide an excellent service to the public. This is reflected in our *Customer Charter* and *Customer Service Action Plan*; and we will regularly monitor and survey the quality of service we provide to the public.

There are many points of contact with the CSO – our Information Section, the External Trade Helpdesk, Census Inquiries, and many other statistical areas. Our statistical sections aim to provide a prompt and helpful response to requests for statistics and to deal courteously with our data providers.

Our dissemination strategy aims to make statistics and related information accessible to the public, with a growing emphasis on electronic publication. Our website www.cso.ie and the Database Direct service will become the key channels for publication of statistics. We are also developing simpler ways of providing statistical returns to the CSO, using new technologies. These will be an important element in managing and reducing the burden placed on individual and business respondents.

Key Performance Indicators

- *Monitor and report on the implementation of our Customer Service Action Plan*
- *Implement the CSO's Official Languages Scheme 2007-2010*
- *Implement the Code of Practice on Accessibility of Public Services and Information provided by Public Bodies and continue to improve the physical environment for customers and staff*
- *Update the CSO's Freedom of Information reference book (Guide to CSO Functions, Records, Rules and Practices) in 2008*
- *Monitor the timeliness of our statistical releases and publications, in the CSO Timeliness Monitor.*

Appendices

Appendix 1

European Statistics Code of Practice

The European Statistics Code of Practice is based on 15 principles. Governance authorities and statistical authorities in the European Union have committed themselves to adhering to the principles fixed in the code covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and outputs.

A set of indicators of good practice for each of the 15 principles provides a reference framework for reviewing the implementation of the Code of Practice. The full text of the Code, including these indicators, is available at <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>. The 15 principles are set out below.

Institutional Environment

Institutional and organisational factors have a significant influence on the effectiveness and credibility of a statistical authority producing and disseminating European statistics. The relevant issues are professional independence, mandate for data collection, adequacy of resources, quality commitment, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and objectivity.

Principle 1: Professional Independence - The professional independence of statistical authorities from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, ensures the credibility of European statistics.

Principle 2: Mandate for Data Collection - Statistical authorities must have a clear legal mandate to collect information for European statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises and households, and the public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for European statistical purposes at the request of statistical authorities.

Principle 3: Adequacy of Resources - The resources available to statistical authorities must be sufficient to meet European statistics requirements.

Principle 4: Quality Commitment - All ESS members commit themselves to work and co-operate according to the principles fixed in the Quality Declaration of the European Statistical System.

Principle 5: Statistical Confidentiality - The privacy of data providers (households, enterprises, administrations and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information they provide and its use only for statistical purposes must be absolutely guaranteed.

Principle 6: Impartiality and Objectivity - Statistical authorities must produce and disseminate European statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

Statistical Processes

European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices must be fully observed in the processes used by the statistical authorities to organise, collect, process and disseminate official statistics. The credibility of the statistics is enhanced by a reputation for good management and efficiency. The relevant aspects are sound methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-excessive burden on respondents and cost effectiveness.

Principle 7: Sound Methodology - Sound methodology must underpin quality statistics. This requires adequate tools, procedures and expertise.

Principle 8: Appropriate Statistical Procedures - Appropriate statistical procedures, implemented from data collection to data validation, must underpin quality statistics.

Principle 9: Non-Excessive Burden on Respondents - The reporting burden should be proportionate to the needs of the users and should not be excessive for respondents. The statistical authority monitors the response burden and sets targets for its reduction over time.

Principle 10: Cost Effectiveness - Resources must be effectively used.

Statistical Output

Available statistics must meet users' needs. Statistics comply with the European quality standards and serve the needs of European institutions, governments, research institutions, business concerns and the public generally. The important issues concern the extent to which the statistics are relevant, accurate and reliable, timely, coherent, comparable across regions and countries, and readily accessible by users.

Principle 11: Relevance - European statistics must meet the needs of users.

Principle 12: Accuracy and Reliability - European statistics must accurately and reliably portray reality.

Principle 13: Timeliness and Punctuality - European statistics must be disseminated in a timely and punctual manner.

Principle 14: Coherence and Comparability - European statistics should be consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it should be possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.

Principle 15: Accessibility and Clarity - European statistics should be presented in a clear and understandable form, disseminated in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.

Appendix 2

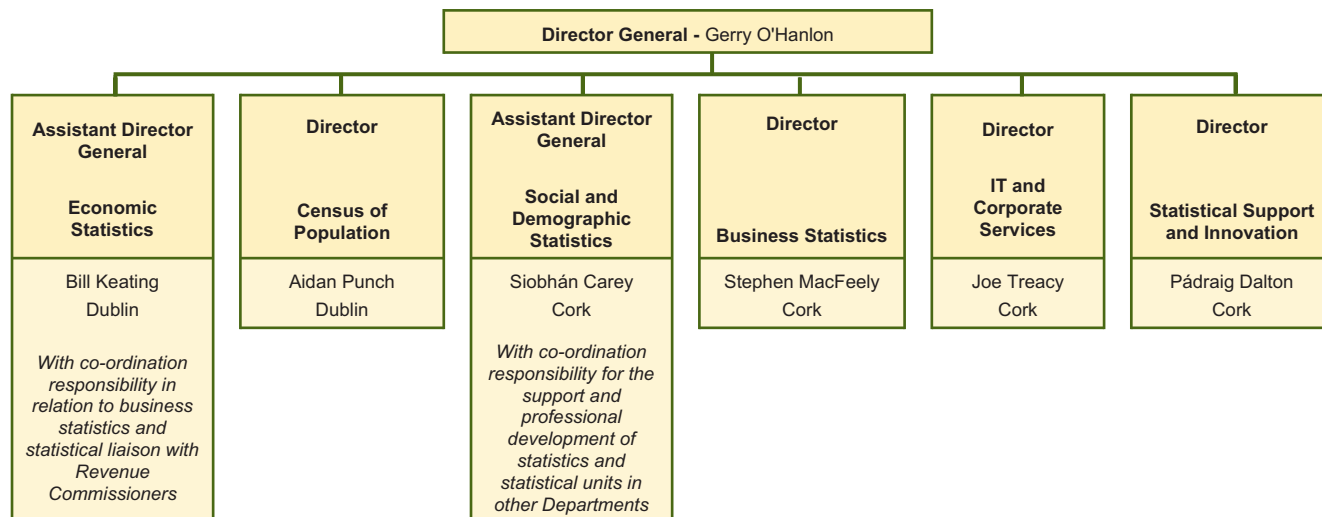
UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

1. Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizen's entitlement to public information.
2. To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.
3. To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.
4. The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.
5. Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.
6. Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.
7. The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.
8. Co-ordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.
9. The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.
10. Bilateral and multilateral co-operation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

Source: United Nations Economic and Social Council. Report of the Special Session of the Statistical Commission (New York, 11-15 April 1994), E/1994/29.

Appendix 3

CSO Organisation Chart – Senior Management Structure



Heads of Division - Senior Statistician/Principal Officer					
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National Accounts-Integration Michael Connolly	Census Geography & Processing Gerry Walker	QNHS, HBS, EU-SILC Kevin McCormack	Industrial Statistics & Building Joe Madden	IT Corporate Systems Margaret McLoughlin	e-Government & Business Co-ordination John Dunne
National Accounts - Income John O'Hagan	Demography & Census Outputs Deirdre Cullen	Labour Market & Vital Statistics Kieran Walsh	Services Richard McMahon	IT Service Delivery John O'Connor	Quality Assurance/Audit, Statistics Methodology & Development Dave Jennings
National Accounts - Expenditure Paddy McDonald	Census IT Noel Walsh (acting)	Earnings and Employment costs Paul M Crowley	Prices Paul J Crowley	Administration & Finance Liam Hogan	Data Linking and Integration Adrian Redmond
National Accounts - Government Mick Lucey		Crime Statistics Gerard Healy	Agriculture Tom McMahon	Human Resources John O'Leary	Business Statistics Integration Elaine Lucey
Balance of Payments Analysis & Dissemination John Fitzpatrick		Social Statistics Integration Gerry Brady		Statistical Software Business Development Unit Jennifer Banim (acting)	
Balance of Payments & Financial Sector Catherine Finneran					
External Trade & Environment Pat Fanning					

Appendix 4

Glossary

Term	Explanation
BOP	Balance of Payments
CBFSAI	Central Bank and Financial Services Authority of Ireland
CIP	Census of Industrial Production
COP	Census of Population
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSDB	Centralised Securities Database
CSV	Comma Separated Variable is a file type that stores tabular data in a format where commas are used to separate values
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
DAP	Divisional Action Programme agreed on an annual basis for the implementation of the CSO's Statement of Strategy
DMS	Data Management System
DoHC	Department of Health and Children
ECB	European Central Bank
EHECS	Earnings, Hours, Employment and Labour Costs Survey
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	European System of National Accounts
Eurostat	The EU Statistical Office (the statistical service of the European Commission)

Term	Explanation
EU-SILC	EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions
FATS	Foreign affiliate trade statistics
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
HBS	Household Budget Survey
HR	Human Resources
HRB	Health Research Board
HTML	Hypertext Mark-up Language is the document format used on the World Wide Web
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IT	Information Technology
ITIL	Information Technology Infrastructure Library (process for managing the delivery of IT services)
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MEETS	EU programme for Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics
N/R	Not recorded
NACE	<i>Nomenclature statistique des activités économiques dans la Communauté européenne.</i> The EU classification of economic activities

Term	Explanation
NES	National Employment Survey
NSB	National Statistics Board
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
PMDS	Performance Management and Development System (public sector system for managing individual work performance, training and career development)
PPSN	Personal Public Service Number
Prodcom	EU classification of industry sector products (linked to the external trade commodity classification)
QNHS	Quarterly National Household Survey
SEI	Sustainable Energy Ireland
SNA	System of National Accounts
Towards 2016	National ten-year framework social partnership agreement 2006-2015
VIMA	Office within the Revenue Commissioners dealing, inter alia, with source data for trade statistics.
WPI	Wholesale Price Index

