

STATS UPDATE

On the first Friday of every month the Central Statistics Office (CSO) issues the 'Live Register - Monthly Statement'. This is the usual measure of the level of unemployment in the State. The latest figures issued at the beginning of October show 241,765 on the live register, 18.6 % of the labour force. The live register measure of unemployment only includes those persons who sign on for benefits or credits. This underestimates the extent of the jobs crisis. To get the full picture we need to consider other factors. For example there are 40,000 people on government training programmes or schemes. Though some of these people are in training that is directly linked to jobs available a large proportion of those on schemes will go straight back to the dole queues at the end of six or twelve months. Some groups do not qualify for unemployment compensation and as a result do not appear on the live register, e.g. people under the age of eighteen cannot claim unemployment assistance.

The unemployment level, as measured by the live register has been levelling out at around 19%. But this 'stabilisation' has been brought about by a new wave of emigration. In the five years to 1986 net emigration totalled 75,000. It is likely that a further 30,000 left in 1986/87 and that this rate has been maintained since. As those leaving the country are in general more likely to be of working age than those entering even this probably understates the impact of emigration on the labour force and on the unemployment figures.

LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT

Twice a year the CSO release their 'Half Yearly Age by Duration' analysis. This records the growth in long term unemployment. The latest figures available relate to 17 April 1987. At that date there were 249,762 people on the live register. Of these 93,185 were unemployed for less than 6 months and 46,577 for periods of from 6 to 12 months. 111,000 people were unemployed for over a year. That represents 44% of the total unemployed. The following table shows the breakdown of long term unemployment by age and sex:

Long term unemployed (12 months +, in 000's)

Age	Male	Female	Total
u/25	15½	7½	23
25/45	48	10½	58½
45/60	19½	3½	23
60+	5½	1	6½
Total	88½	22½	111