

SUMMARY TABLE

OUTPUT (Real Annual Growth %)	2004	2005	2006	2007
Private Consumer Expenditure	3.8	5.6	5.9	6.4
Public Net Current Expenditure	2.4	3.1	3.2	3.7
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	8.0	13.1	7.8	6.9
Exports	7.0	1.8	3.5	4.0
Imports	7.6	4.6	4.9	5.1
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	4.5	4.7	4.8	5.1
Gross National Product (GNP)	4.0	5.4	5.1	5.3
PRICES (Annual Growth %)				
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	2.2	2.5	2.8	2.6
Wage Growth	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.0
LABOUR MARKET				
Employment Levels (ILO basis (000s))	1,865	1,952	2,019	2,078
Unemployment Levels (ILO basis (000s))	87	89	94	93
Unemployment Rate (as % of Labour Force)	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3
Live Register Levels (000s)	0	0	0	0
PUBLIC FINANCE				
Exchequer Balance (€m)	33	-499	-2,044	-3,726
General Government Balance (€m)	2,117	848	-69	-1,730
General Government Balance (% of GDP)	1.4	0.5	0.0	-0.9
General Government Debt (% of GDP)	29.4	27.4	26.5	26.4
EXTERNAL TRADE				
Balance of Payments Current Account (€m)	-1,167.0	-3,070.0	-4,088.6	-4,585.7
Current Account (% of GNP)	-0.9	-2.3	-2.7	-2.8
EXCHANGE AND INTEREST RATES				
US\$/€ Exchange Rate (Annual Average)	1.24	1.24	1.21	1.21
STG£/€ Exchange Rate (Annual Average)	0.69	0.68	0.68	0.68
Main ECB Interest Rate (%) (year end)	2.00	2.25	3.00	3.50

Source: ESRI *Quarterly Economic Commentary* Spring, 2006.