

SUMMARY TABLE

OUTPUT (Real Annual Growth %)	2001	2002	2003	2004
Private Consumer Expenditure	5.5	2.7	2.3	3.2
Public Net Current Expenditure	11.1	9.4	1.3	1.4
Private Investment	0.2	1.7	-0.6	1.2
Exports	8.3	6.2	-3.7	2.6
Imports	6.5	2.3	-5.6	1.1
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	6.2	6.9	2.2	3.2
Gross National Product (GNP)	3.8	0.1	1.9	3.1
PRICES (Annual Growth %)				
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	4.9	4.6	3.7	2.6
Wage Growth	10.1	5.4	5.1	3.6
LABOUR MARKET				
Employment Levels (ILO basis (000s))	1,741	1,765	1,784	1,795
Unemployment Levels (ILO basis (000s))	71	82	89	97
Unemployment Rate (as % of Labour Force)	3.9	4.4	4.7	5.1
Live Register Levels (000s)	142	163	176	193
PUBLIC FINANCE				
Exchequer Balance (€m)	653	95	-1,902	-3,154
General Government Balance (€m)	1,258	-306	-1,066	-1,829
General Government Balance (% of GDP)	1.1	-0.2	-0.8	-1.3
General Government Debt (% of GDP)	36.1	32.4	31.8	32.3
EXTERNAL TRADE				
Balance of Payments Current Account (€m)	-757	-954	-1,120	-491
Current Account (% of GNP)	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-0.4
EXCHANGE AND INTEREST RATES (Annual Averages)				
US\$/€Exchange Rate	0.90	0.95	1.13	1.17
Main ECB Interest Rate (%)	4.3	3.2	2.4	2.2

Source: ESRI *Quarterly Economic Commentary* Autumn 2003.