

December 23, 2005

SFA - End of Year Statement on Jobs

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- Level of redundancies only blackspot in brilliant year for employment.
- Redundancies of 21,532 in 2005 disappointing.
- Manufacturing Industry hardest hit with 6,400 redundancies in 2005.
- 43% of all jobs lost are in Dublin.
- 59% of all job losses suffered by males.
- Job losses show no room for complacency.

“The loss of a further 21,532 jobs to end November 2005 shows that there is no room for complacency in this area. The cumulative job losses since 2000 now stands at over 130,000. Wage rates are outstripping productivity growth and are far in excess of other eurozone countries. This is unsustainable in the long-term.” Patricia Callan, SFA Assistant Director.

Regional Breakdown of Redundancies 2005 (January - November)

COUNTY TOTAL REDUNDANCIES % NATIONAL TOTAL

Carlow	589	3
Cavan	145	1
Clare	556	2.5
Cork	1721	8
Donegal	390	2
Dublin	9318	43
Galway	840	4
Kerry	548	2.5
Kildare	603	3
Kilkenny	243	1
Laois	171	1
Leitrim	46	0
Limerick	1068	5
Longford	128	0.5
Louth	379	2
Mayo	646	3
Meath	427	2
Monaghan	150	1
Offaly	234	1
Roscommon	134	0.5
Sligo	257	1

Irish Press Releases

Tipperary 546 2.5
Waterford 900 4
Westmeath 340 1.5
Wexford 464 2
Wicklow 689 3
TOTAL 21532 100

The Assistant Director of the Small Firms Association, Patricia Callan, has said that the level of recorded redundancies for 2005 show that the exposed sectors of the economy continue to come under severe global competitive pressure, while higher domestic costs in electricity, gas, local authority, waste, water and environmental charges continue to undermine the overall competitive position. While overall employment figures showed a remarkable growth last year with 2 million people now employed, the manufacturing sector remains a major cause of concern with a further 6,400 jobs lost in 2005 to end November. Employment in manufacturing and production industries, which are the most exposed within the economy, has fallen from 330,000 in 2002 to below 290,000. "If this decline in competitiveness persists, a lagged response in terms of more significant loss of employment in these sectors will occur," she said.

According to Callan, "while the 2005 figures recorded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to end November 2005, represent a 9.2% improvement on the previous year, the economy still shed 450 jobs every week in 2005, and are twice the level of redundancies recorded in 2000."

The Manufacturing sector has been hardest hit, with 6,396 jobs and 30% of all jobs lost to date. Of this, the Other Manufacturing sector has seen the greatest losses at 4,790 jobs. This has in a large part resulted from a downturn in investment; with some long-standing multinationals relocating their operations to more cost efficient bases. Other Services sectors and Distributive trades have also had severe job losses of 5,636 and 4,790 jobs respectively.

A regional comparison shows that over 43% of all jobs lost to date have been in Dublin, followed by Cork and Limerick with job losses of 1721 and 1068 respectively.

Some 59% of all job losses were suffered by males, with the balance of 41% by females.

In conclusion, Callan stated that "while 2005 was a brilliant year for employment, the loss of a further 21,532 jobs to end November 2005 shows that there is no room for complacency in this area. The cumulative job losses since 2000 now stands at over 130,000. Wage rates are outstripping productivity growth and are far in excess of other eurozone countries. This is unsustainable in the long-term."