

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **OVER 32,000 PERMANENT FULL-TIME JOBS CREATED IN MANUFACTURING AND INTERNATIONALLY TRADED SERVICES IN 1998 - FORFÁS SURVEY**

### **Highlights :\***

- **In 1998 total full-time employment in manufacturing and internationally traded services in Ireland reached a new record of almost 278,000, an increase of over 14,300 on 1997.**
- **Over 32,000\*\* jobs were created in manufacturing, international traded services and international financial services in Ireland in 1998, an increase of 4.2% over 1997, and the highest recorded todate.**
- **Job losses in these sectors were over 17,700 an increase of over 21% on 1997. This was the highest level of job losses since 1993. The rate of increase was highest in foreign owned firms in 1998 (33%) due to the impact of international market conditions.**
- **1998 was the sixth consecutive year in which increases were recorded in job creation.**

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\* All figures rounded.

\*\* Includes companies under the remit of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Shannon Development and Údarás Na Gaeltachta. Some jobs in Údarás are classified as other than manufacturing or internationally traded services.

**These are some of the key findings in the Forfás Annual Employment Survey for 1998 which is published today 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1999.**

**Commenting on the Survey's findings Mr. John Travers, Chief Executive Officer, Forfás said the record rate of jobs growth in manufacturing and international traded services in 1998 reflected the continuing strength of the Irish economy, the sustained investment in infrastructural development, education and training, an enhanced pro-business policy environment, and the effective promotional activity of the state agencies. He referred to how good management of the economy, including the beneficial effects of social partnership have helped to keep Ireland competitive in international markets.**

**Other Key Findings in the Survey :**

- **Foreign owned companies accounted for almost 8,500 (59%) of the net job growth while Irish owned companies contributed just over 5,800 (41%).**
- **Manufacturing employment accounted for almost 5,600 (38.8%), and internationally traded and financial services for just over 8,700 (61.2%), of the total net increase of 14,300 in permanent employment in 1998.**
- **Part-time, temporary and short-term contract employment increased by almost 1,400 jobs in foreign-owned companies in 1998,**

**a rise of 9%, compared with a rise of almost 330 or 2.1% in Irish-owned companies.**

- **Overall permanent full-time employment in manufacturing and internationally traded and financial services companies increased by over 65,600 (30.9%) over the period 1989/98.**
- **Employment in foreign-owned companies grew by over 43,800 jobs, a rise of 46.8% over the period, while;**
- **Employment in Irish-owned companies grew by almost 21,800 (18.4%) over the period. Most of the growth in employment has occurred since 1993, particularly in Irish-owned companies.**

**International Comparisons:**

**According to OECD data Ireland has a unique record because it has significantly increased manufacturing employment over the ten-year period 1989/98. Changes to manufacturing employment in Ireland and other leading international economies :**

<b>Ireland</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+17.3%</b>
<b>UK</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 15.7%</b>
<b>USA</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 3.7%</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 30.2%</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 6.2%</b>

**This data points to the success Ireland has achieved in building a competitive manufacturing base despite the general reduction in manufacturing employment in many advanced economies.**

**Mr Travers said that Ireland is still well positioned for future employment growth in the next few years provided that the basic competitiveness of the economy is maintained. He said that this will require strong actions to address the infrastructural bottle-necks arising from faster than anticipated economic growth through increased investment and improved planning procedures. Investment in education from primary to 3<sup>rd</sup> level, and including adult education and in strengthening the R&D capability of the economy and other areas of critical importance to competitiveness. He said that the successful conclusion of a new social partnership agreement could play a positive part in keeping Ireland competitive in the years ahead.**

**ENDS**

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19<sup>th</sup> July, 1999.**