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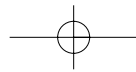
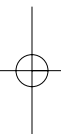
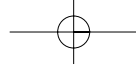
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Ballymun Partnership was established in 1991. It is an independent company, limited by guarantee. Company Registration Number is 197878. It has Charitable Status, Number CHY 11441.

Ballymun People & Employment

Part 1



Welfare Payments

All Respondents were asked whether or not they received welfare payments, in total 42.4% indicated that they received benefit payments. Table 4 shows the breakdown between different welfare payments.

Table 4 Receiving welfare payments

Type	%
Unemployment Assistance	5.8
Unemployment Benefit	4.3
Lone Parent Allowance	18.6
Related to Disability	6.8
Carer's Allowance	0.4
Other	6.6

The proportion of Ballymun people claiming Lone Parent Allowance has increased since 2000. According to the survey conducted in 2000, 14.4% of adults claimed the benefit and as can be seen in the table above, this percentage has increased by 4.2% to 18.6%. However, when we examine these percentages in terms of the estimated population in 2000 and the lower estimated population figure in 2003, the actual number of people claiming Lone Parent Allowance (approximately 1999 people) has stayed constant since 2000.

Comment

Employment is an important avenue out of poverty. Providing someone with the ability to take-up and sustain employment is a central aspect of the Partnership's strategy to address social and economic exclusion in Ballymun. The current social and economic profile of Ballymun builds on the labour market profile detailed in the Partnership's 2K Report published in 2000. The findings provide valuable information on the pattern of employment and unemployment in Ballymun. The information provides an opportunity to compare Ballymun with National figures across a range of key labour market indicators.

As in 2000 the rationale for the survey was to address the difficulties in local planning arising from the absence of up to date and accurate data on the economic status of resident in Ballymun. In particular, the findings provide up to date and accurate data enabling the calculation of the following key labour market indicators:

- The labour force participate rate (i.e., number employed + number unemployed / number in population);
- The employment rate (i.e., number employed / number in population); and,
- The unemployment rate (i.e., number unemployed / number unemployed + number employed).

The survey findings show a drop in the rate of unemployment when compared with the 2000 survey. On the basis of a respondent's Principle Economic Status (PES) the unemployment rate in Ballymun, at 24.1%, is 3.5% lower than at the time of the 2000 survey. Despite this progress the rate remains over three times the national rate (i.e., 6.4%). The rate of unemployment is going in the right direction, however, much work still needs to be done in order to bring Ballymun more in line with the national average.

The survey identified a range of factors contributing to the higher levels of unemployment in Ballymun when compared to the National figures. These include the high numbers of people with low educational qualifications and the fact that the majority of people are in either unskilled and semi-skilled manual jobs. This highlights the importance of providing relevant education

and training provision for job seekers in Ballymun. Addressing the job market needs of individuals will require long-term plans and actions that can increase the skill levels of individuals in Ballymun, so that they can compete for jobs that are more sustainable and provide higher incomes for the individual in the long term. The results of the survey show a strong willingness among people to participate in education and training and to address their education and training deficits. It would be important that education and training agencies respond to this enthusiasm and provide activity that is relevant to the needs of the jobs market and the individuals.

The survey findings show that high unemployment is not the only distinctive feature of the labour force in Ballymun. The employment rate is approximately 7.5% below the national rate of employment. As stated above employment is the primary route out of poverty, it is therefore necessary to encourage more individuals in Ballymun to participate in employment and to make employment a realistic financial option. In this regard two findings are worth highlighting.

First the survey shows that approximately 18% of those over 15 years of age are lone-parents and that approximately one third of all those in employment are in part-time employment, and not under-employed. The percentage of those over 15 in part-time employment at 16.1% is nearly seven percentage points higher than the National figure of 9.3%. The Report does not specifically link the two findings, however we could conclude a relationship between the them, in that, the high percentage of part-time employment could in part be a reflection of the large number of people receiving a lone-parent allowance in Ballymun (approximately 2000). In the medium to long-term, part-time employment is unlikely to generate higher levels of income. It may be necessary then to encourage individuals to consider full-time options. However, the issues arising for lone parents when choosing between an income from a job, as opposed to income from welfare payments, and in particular their childcare needs, should inform any deliberations and plans that encourage individuals to consider full-time employment options.

Secondly, the survey also shows that 59% of people have a medical card compared with a national figure of 26%. This is an indicator of the low levels of incomes in the area and highlights the difficulties that individuals may experience in taking up employment, and particularly full-time employment at higher rates of pay, because of the fear of losing secondary benefits such as the medical card.

Occupations

As can be seen in the next table six out of ten workers described the level of their job as general operative. However, when the respondents were asked whether they considered their occupation was part of a career path or just a job, nearly half (48.9%) stated it was part of a career. All respondents were also asked whether they would be interested in setting up their own business and over a quarter (26.7%) indicated that they would be. This obviously illustrates the great potential for enterprise in Ballymun.

Table 3 Level of occupation

<i>Level in current job</i>	<i>%</i>
General operative	60.9
Clerical operative	14.2
Supervisor	9.9
Management team	3.0
Director	0.9
Employer	1.3
Other	9.9

Ballymun has a slightly higher percentage of people (aged 15 and over) describing themselves as students. This is probably due to the high numbers of people participating in training schemes provided by Youthreach, Local Employment Services, FÁS etc., as well as attending evening courses at the local comprehensive school.

Table 2 compares the International Labour Office (ILO) economic status of Ballymun residents with the national figures. (The ILO criteria allows us to compare ourselves nationally and internationally in terms of the European standard criteria for establishing unemployment figures).

Table 2 ILO Economic Status, Ballymun and the State

<i>ILO Criterion</i>	<i>2000 Survey</i>	<i>2002 Survey</i>	<i>State*</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Employed full time	31.7	31.4	47.6
Employed part time (not under employed)	13.5	16.1	9.3
Employed part time (under employed)	1.0	2.0	0.1
Unemployed	7.8	9.1	2.7
Not in labour force	46.0	41.4	40.3

**Source: CSO - QNHS (2002 4th Quarter)*

Using the ILO criteria, over three times as many people from Ballymun are classified as unemployed. Another area in which the labour force profile of Ballymun differs from the national profile is part-time employment. Proportionally Ballymun has 6.8% more part-time workers than the State.

“Half of the population over 15 years are now in employment”

Finally, this survey illustrates the value of developing a systematic approach to identifying and monitoring labour market developments at a local level. It provides the Partnership with a glance at the local labour market and enables it to mark progress and to plan future actions in response to trends emerging. However it is very important to remember that behind the statistics are individuals seeking to improve their lives and their families in an area that, in terms of employment, still has some way to go before it reflects national norms. The regeneration of Ballymun provides an ideal opportunity to improve the employment prospects of individuals in Ballymun. Resources must be made available to attract quality employment. Access to appropriate education and training and other supports must also be made available that will give individuals in Ballymun the opportunity to access any future employment both locally and across Dublin.

Mick Cheedon, Manager Ballymun Job Centre

“Behind the statistics are individuals seeking to improve their lives.”



Introduction to the Facts and Figures

To gather the key data for this Fact File, Ballymun Partnership commissioned a company called Vision 21 to conduct a survey with ten percent of Ballymun residents, over the Christmas period 2002.

Addresses were randomly selected from a database which we constructed using information from Dublin City Council Regional Office, from Ballymun Post Office and Ballymun Regeneration Limited.

The target sample size was 485 households, which was 10% of the total number of households, 4,850, in Ballymun at the time of the survey. The survey results tell us that out of these 485 households, there were 1,516 members. If we multiply this figure by 10 we can estimate that the total population for Ballymun is 15,160 people. On average there are 3.14 persons per household.

When reading the facts that follow you can refer to the total household number 4,850, and the total population number, 15,160, where relevant, in order to get a real understanding of the actual numbers of people from the percentages given

The facts and figures

Numbers of people 15 years and over.

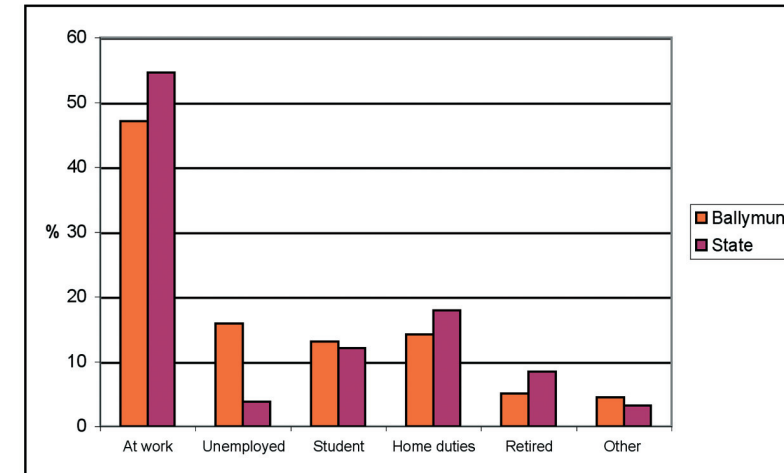
In the total sample (respondents plus other household members), 1062 individuals were aged fifteen or over. Table 1 compares the Principle Economic Status (PES) of Ballymun residents (aged fifteen and older) with those of the State.

Table 1 Principal Economic Status, Ballymun and the State

PES Criterion	2000 Survey %	2002 Survey %	State* %
At work	48.9	47.1	54.6
Unemployed	18.6	15.9	3.8
Student	9.0	13.1	12.1
Home duties	15.0	14.2	17.9
Retired	4.9	5.1	8.4
Other (inc. disabled or ill)	3.5	4.5	3.2

**Source: CSO - QNHS (2002 4th Quarter)*

Chart 1 Principal Economic Status, Ballymun and the State



Levels of unemployment

When comparing the PES of Ballymun residents with the national picture, it can be seen in Chart 1 that four times as many Ballymun people describe themselves as unemployed, and there were 7.5% fewer people who indicated that they worked. The fact that Ballymun has a relatively young population explains why a lower proportion of people describe themselves as retired.