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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)  
STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Seminar on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS)  
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Topic (i): Changes in statistical processes

## **THE EVOLVEMENT OF STATISTICAL PROCESSING IN IRELAND**

**Supporting Paper prepared by Tom Keane, Central Statistics Office, Ireland**

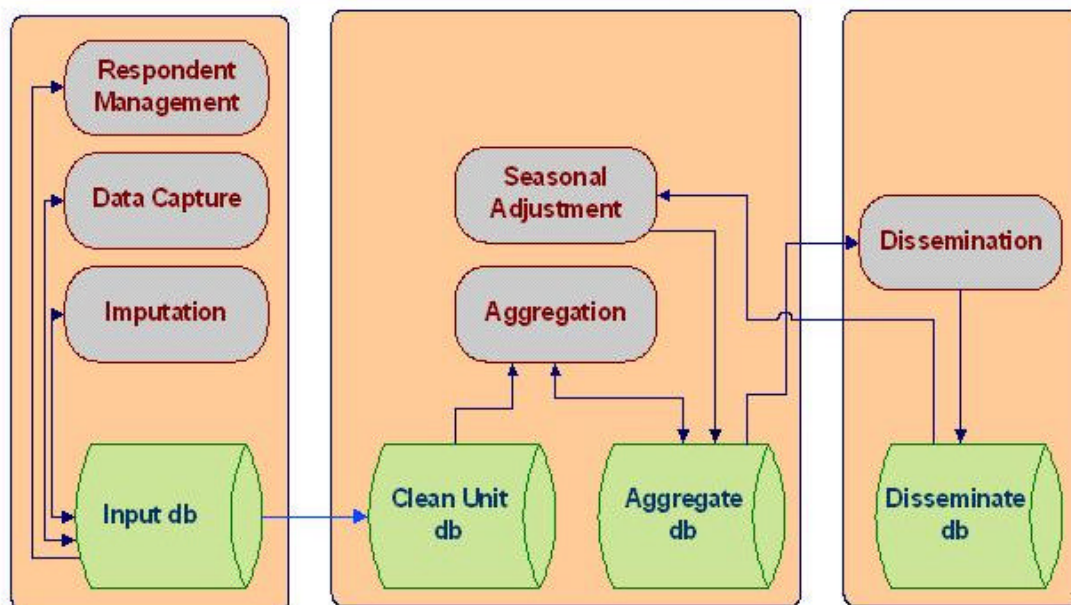
### **Summary**

1. Since the turn of the twenty-first century, the Central Statistical Office of Ireland (CSO) has been implementing a new IT Strategy. The technical architecture was reported on at MSIS 2003<sup>1</sup>
2. The major part of the implementation involves building a new Database Management System (DMS), which is described by the diagram below
3. The DMS is scheduled to go live in January 2007. Data migration was completed in March 2006. User training is scheduled for March-June 2006, with user acceptance testing starting in April and planned for completion in September.
4. The DMS will totally change the way data is processed in the CSO.
5. The DMS is metadata driven and will give business users the tools to design and process their surveys in the DMS without the hands - on support of IT staff.
6. Use is made of automatic coding packages for industry, occupation, area and cause of death coding.

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<sup>1</sup> Future Information Architecture, CES/AC.71/2003/24

## Data Model & Data Management System



7. The CSO's e-Public Service Strategy set out the strategy relation to the electronic collection and dissemination of statistics. It identified that the main focus would be on the incremental improvement of e-technology and related functionality in targeted areas and on the adoption and use of systems being developed internationally.
8. Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) is used extensively in household surveys.
9. For business surveys, most information is still obtained through paper questionnaires. Progress is being made in the use of electronic questionnaires and extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL).
10. Scanning, including OCR, is in widespread use for business surveys.
11. All of our statistical publications are released on [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie) at the same time as the paper publications. A Database Dissemination Service and RSS is also provided on the website.
12. The various methods outlined above lead to improved quality in our statistical processes.

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