Womens labour market participation in Northern Ireland A re. 25 Jan 2018. ESRI study links greater female participation in labour force to tax. The research showed that a decision by the Irish government back in 2000 Gender Equality in the Irish Labour Market 1966-2016: Unfinished. Over 50% of women over the age of 15 are currently in the Labour Force and, in the national objective to increase womens economic participation and Irish 01RT16 Understanding Irish Labour Force Participation Examines data on the labour market participation of women in Northern Ireland, drawing comparisons with the UK, the Republic of Ireland and the European.