



# LABOUR MARKET INTELLIGENCE SOURCES

## Country fiche - IRELAND

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Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence  
within European Universities - LMI-EUniv



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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

EU	European Union
HEI	Higher Education Institution
LMI	Labour Market Intelligence
LMI-EUniv	Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence within European Universities
OVATE	Skills Online Vacancy Analysis Tool for Europe (Skills OVATE)
CSO	Central Statistical Office
ESCO	European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
TU	Technological Universities
TI	Institutes of Technology
FET	Further Education & Training
EGFSN	Expert Group on Future Skills Need
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute

# BACKGROUND

## LMI-EUniv project

“Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence within European Universities - LMI-EUniv”, the project was the subject of a successful application to Key Action 2 - Cooperation among organisations and institutions - of the Erasmus+ programme.

## Consortium

The consortium is composed of West University of Timisoara (project leader), University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy), University of Tallinn (Estonia), Prospektiker (Spain) and Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (Luxembourg).

## Aims

The primary focus of the project is to understand how are European Universities using labour market information and labour market intelligence in the planning and delivery of their provision and how can this be improved. Therefore, the project aims to help HEI to develop appropriate skills and competencies through better matching of education supply to demand through innovative learning and teaching practices.

## Objectives

The LMI-EUniv project has three main objectives: (1) to map essential LMI sources at national level, (2) to explore how HEI in Europe are using LMI, and (3) to produce a training course, guide and a Labour Market Intelligence Hub. This will be an online platform, aggregating LMI sources and information, and aims to become a reference point for all HEI.

# INTRODUCTION

This country fiche provides information concerning the essential LMI sources at national level with a particular focus on LMI sources used by HEI. It was developed within the Intellectual Output 1 of the LMI-EUniv project - Mapping essential LMI sources at national level. The role of the country fiches is to systemize information related to LMI sources and gather them into a LMI Hub. The country fiches will form the basis for the Data (Evidence) Report and in turn, will inform the production of the Final Report.

During the inception phase of the project, we have noticed the existence of a large number of LMI sources but also a lack of information about them. We consider that having access to a single point of information with LMI sources will enable HEI to better use this for their activities. Thus, this research represents the first step in this direction through mapping the LMI sources at the European level.

We believe that this study is the first of its kind focused on LMI sources across Europe and is in itself a considerable innovation. Through this activity, we are seeking to influence how universities in Europe view, analyse, utilise and produce their own LMI to aid with their decision-making. Further, we aim to make this available to help stakeholders such as policymakers in national and regional governments, employers, and regional development agencies to be better able to bring their demand-side knowledge to support universities and ensure higher education supply fits to current and future labour market need.

The Final Report Recommendations given the project's geographical coverage and the pressing need for action on using labour market intelligence should have considerable transferability potential.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Demography

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2022, Ireland had a population of 5,123,536 inhabitants (source: Ireland's Central Statistics Office (CSO)), increasing 7.6 percent since 2016 and ranking the highest since 1841. This represents about 1.14 per cent of European Union population. Ireland is the youngest country in the ageing EU, with a median age of 38.2 years. Crude rate of total population change, per 1 000 persons was +10.7 in 2021, with a crude birth rate of 12.6 and a crude death rate of 6.7. Life expectancy in 2021 stands at 81.4 years, with 79.1 years for males and 83.9 years for females.

Ireland is experiencing a growth of population that is due to a natural increase (more births than deaths) and a positive net migration.

The net migration rate is 3.83 migrants/1,000 populations. The Republic of Ireland has been a popular destination for immigrants for the last 50 years, particularly immigrants from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and the Czech Republic. In 2006, 10% of the population (420,000 people) were foreign nationals, while 24% of births were to mothers born outside of the country. A 2015 study showed that almost 1 in 8 people living in Ireland were born abroad.

The age structure reflects the existence of demographic ageing phenomenon, which has determined the fall in the share of young population (0-14 years) and the absolute and relative increase in the share of older people (60 years and over). Proportion of population aged 0-14 years was 19.7 per cent in 2022, while the proportion of population aged 65 years and more was 15.0 per cent, resulting an age dependency ratio (population aged 0-14 and 65 and more to pop. aged 15-64) of 53.2 per cent.

## Labour market

The Irish Labour Market is characterised by a very high dynamic. The lifting of Covid 19 restrictions at the beginning of 2022, the trend of Irish employees to look for new job opportunities, digitalization and remote or hybrid work options have generated an increase in employment opportunities and intensification in the activity of job seekers.

According to National Institute of Statistics, in the fourth quarter of 2022, the activity rate (25-64 years) in Ireland was 82.5 per cent, higher than the EU-27 average, which was 81.4 per cent. For the same period and same age range, the employment rate was 79.6 per cent. The unemployment rate is generally lower than the EU average, in the fourth quarter was 3.5 per cent in Ireland and 5.4 per cent in EU-27.

The most advertised occupation (using OVATE as a source) in the period of Q1 2022 - Q4 2022 were ICT professionals, Researchers and engineers, Office professionals, Business managers and Office associate professionals. The most requested skills (at level 1 ESCO skill) were Communication, collaboration and creativity; Attitudes; Management skills; Business, administration and law; and, Generic programmes and qualifications.

## Higher education market

A wide range of institutions in Ireland provide third-level education. The university sector, the technological sector and the colleges of education are substantially funded by the State. In addition, there are a number of independent private colleges.

The Higher Education Authority is the statutory agency responsible for the funding of universities, institutes of technology and certain other higher education institutions. It has an advisory role in relation to the whole sector of third-level education.

Universities in Ireland are State-funded, but they are generally autonomous. There are 7 universities in Ireland. These include:

- The National University of Ireland (NUI) which is the umbrella university covering University College Dublin (UCD), National University of Ireland, Galway, University College Cork, and National University of Ireland, Maynooth.
- The University of Dublin, which is generally known as Trinity College Dublin (TCD)
- The University of Limerick (UL)
- Dublin City University (DCU)

The technological sector includes technological universities (TUs) and institutes of technology (ITs). TUs and ITs provide programmes of education and training in areas such as business, science, engineering, linguistics and music to certificate, diploma and degree levels.

There are 5 technological universities:

- Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) - formerly Dublin, Tallaght and Blanchardstown institutes of technology
- Munster Technological University (MTU) - formerly Cork and Tralee institutes of technology
- Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS) - formerly Limerick and Athlone institutes of technology
- Atlantic Technological University (ATU) - formerly Galway-Mayo, Sligo and Letterkenny institutes of technology. Students graduating in 2021-2022 from those institutes will graduate with university qualifications
- South East Technological University (SETU) - formerly Carlow and Waterford institutes of technology. Students graduating in 2021-2022 from those institutes will graduate with university qualifications.

There are 2 institutes of technology:

- Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT), Dun Laoghaire
- Dundalk Institute of Technology

Based on data collected by Times Higher Education, in 2023, the three best universities in Ireland are Trinity College Dublin, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences and University College Dublin.

The percentage of people aged 20-24 in tertiary education out of the total population in the age range is 36,3%.



# LMI SOURCES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

## LMI providers

LMI comprises any information and knowledge about labour market dynamics. It covers topics such as labour demand and supply, unemployment, employment and earnings, emergence of new occupations, new skills required on labour market, post-graduate path, career expectations, etc.

The Irish labour market is dominated by a large number of actors organised on multiple levels. Most of them provide LMI in different forms.

The Government, through its department and specialised agencies represents the main provider of LMI.

### National Institute of Statistics (Central Statistics Office – CSO)

Central Statistics Office (CSO) organizes and coordinates official statistics in Ireland. CSO is a specialized body of the central public administration, with legal personality, subordinate to the Government, financed from the state budget. CSO provides data series about employment structure, unemployment, educational structure, career information, etc. Data are provided by sector, occupation, level of education etc., being available at local, regional and national level.

### Ministry of Education

Ministry of Education also provides Labour Market Information. For example, through its "Smart choices" platform, it provides accessible Labour Market Information (LMI) and analysis, and Further Education & Training (FET) information, and other resources. The platform allows many different user groups (students, unemployed people, workers, employers) to access and explore information from two central dashboards and other interactive tools, to assist in their career choices and pathways.

This ministry also has another tool called "Careers portal" where educational and labour market information and intelligence is provided in a sectoral manner. Information is published on over 30 of the most prominent career (industry) sectors of the Irish economy.

These sectors have been divided into 7 main categories to make it easy to explore.

### Ministry of Labour

The Ministry of Labour is the main provider of statistics on working conditions and on training needs and gaps. The website of the Health and Safety Authority publishes labour market intelligence about working conditions (type of contract, type of working day, salary...) providing information at national and regional level. In contrast, the Department of enterprise, trade and employment provides information on training needs and gaps but only at the national level and by occupation.

### Professional associations

The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN), established in 1997, has the task of advising Government on future skills requirements and associated labour market issues that impact on the national potential for enterprise and employment growth. Our membership includes Government Departments; Enterprise Development Agencies, Business, Unions, Further Education and Training and the Higher Education Authority. The information is published through its website "Skills Ireland".

### Academic and research institute

The mission of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) is to advance evidence-based policymaking that supports economic sustainability and social progress in Ireland. ESRI researchers apply the highest standards of academic excellence to challenges facing policymakers, focusing on 10 areas of critical importance to 21st Century Ireland. Among the areas of analysis of this institute is the labour market where the research focuses on a wide range of policy areas examining how workers are faring in the labour market and what skills workers need to meet the needs of an evolving economy. Research topics include pay, unemployment, training and skills.

## Assessing the sources of LMI at national level

Once the sources of LMI have been identified, their quality is needed to be assessed. There are many organisations that produce LMI but only through a standardized evaluation process

they can be considered as being qualitative. The quality of LMI sources is sustained by their representativeness, validity and reliability.

The **Table 1** below contains a list of LMI sources identified at national level and their rating in accordance with LMI-EUniv methodology).

Table 1: LMI Sources at national level

[SEE THE LMI SOURCES HERE](#)

# REFERENCES

LMI EUniv, URL: <https://lmi-euniv.eu/>

Skills OVATE, URL: <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/skills-online-vacancies>

Top Universities, URL: <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings-articles/world-university-rankings/top-universities-ireland-2021>

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