

## 4. Occupations

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Persons at work by occupational groups

Employees and the self-employed

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## Occupational groups

Figure 4.1 presents the number of people at work by intermediate occupational group for 2006, 2011 and 2016 (see note below).

Of the 2,006,641 people at work in April 2016, the personal services group (covering care assistants, chefs and hairdressers among others) accounted for the highest number at 238,743 (11.9%), followed by sales occupations at 207,938 (10.4%).

**Note:** In Census 2016 occupation was coded to 2 classifications, SOC1990 and SOC2010. For the purposes of comparisons with 2006 data, SOC1990 is used. See Appendix 3 for more details.

### Number of construction workers just under half compared to 2006

The number of workers with a building and construction occupation has increased by 12,436 over the past five years (of which 97.6% were males). However, the total of 87,889 represents just over half of the figure from 2006 when 170,523 persons worked in construction.

### Increase in personal services and childcare

Occupational groups which saw the largest increases between 2011 and 2016 were personal services and childcare occupations (29,581), computer software (15,041) and health and related (13,052).

Females accounted for 54.8 per cent of the increase in personal services and childcare occupation, 71.9 per cent of the increase in health and related workers and 17.1 per cent in the increase in computer software workers.

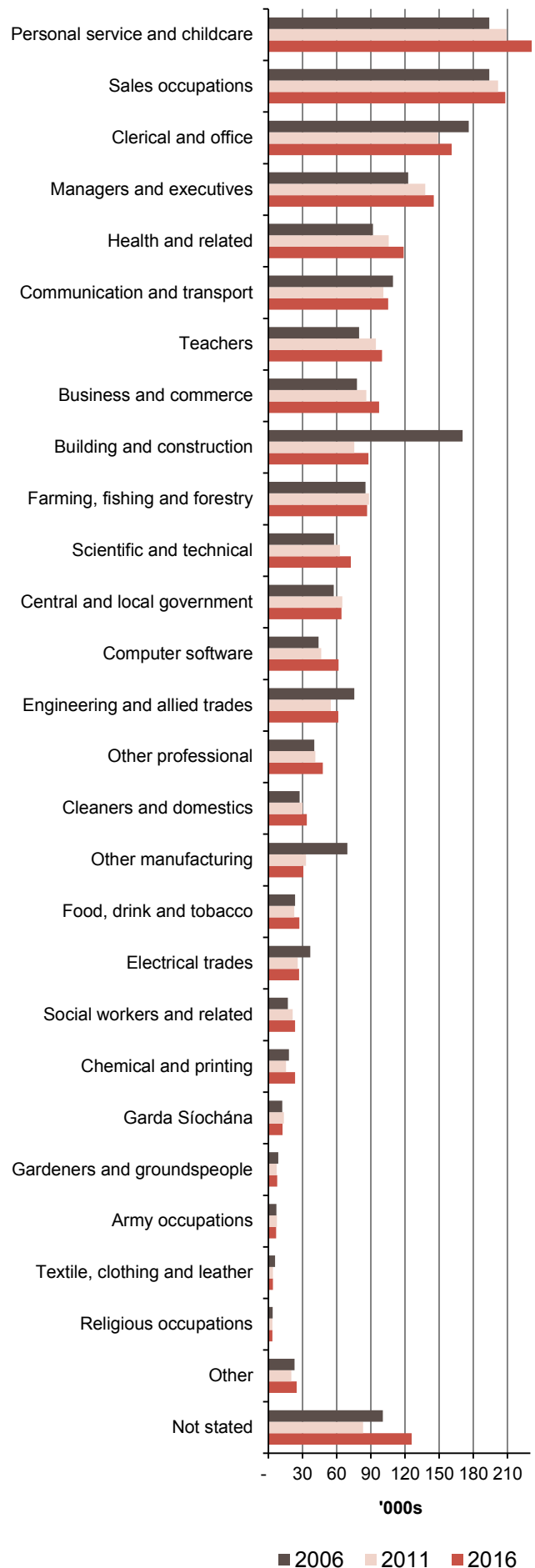
[See web table EZ019](#)

## It's a fact!

**14.1%**

The percentage increase in personal services and childcare occupations between 2011 and 2016

**Figure 4.1 Persons at work by occupational group, 2006-2016**



## Employees and self-employed workers

Of the 2,006,641 people at work in April 2016, 84.1 per cent were employees, 15.6 per cent were self-employed and the remainder were working assisting relatives.

The number of male employees increased by 17.3 per cent from 710,046 in 2011 to 832,658 in 2016. The number of female employees also increased over the same period rising from 785,164 to 855,891 (9.0 %). This means that there were 23,233 more female employees than male in April 2016. This is down from the 75,118 gap seen in April 2011 when the number of female employees surpassed that of male employees for the first time. In 2016, 77.1 per cent of self-employed persons were men, compared to 79.0 per cent in 2011.

[See web table EZ019](#)

## Occupations of those at work and unemployed

Figure 4.2 shows a breakdown of employees, self-employed and unemployed persons using the SOC2010 classification of occupations (see Appendix 3 for more details).

Secretarial and related occupations were dominated by women, accounting for 95.6 per cent of workers followed by caring personal service occupations (86.7%).

Male dominated occupations included skilled construction trades representing 99.2 per cent of workers, followed by skilled metal, electrical and electronic trades (97.2%).

**Figure 4.2 Employees, self-employed and unemployed persons by occupational group and sex, 2016**

