3. Employment by sector

Changes since 2011

Historical perspective
Employment by sector

Where we work

Overall, there were 199,281 more people at work in April 2016 than five years previously. The number of women at work stood at 929,967, an increase of 77,148 (or 9.0%) since 2011. The number of men at work grew by 122,133 (or 12.8%) to 1,076,674. When examined by age, the greatest increase was seen in women aged 35-44 (45,373) followed closely by males in the same age group (44,624).

Figure 3.1 Change in numbers at work by sex and age, 2011-2016

Heath and Social Work up, Public Administration and Defence down

Figure 3.2 opposite shows the changes in numbers at work by industrial group between 2006 and 2011 and between 2011 and 2016.

Note: In Census 2016 industry was coded to 2 classifications, namely, NACE Rev.1 and NACE Rev. 2. For the purposes of comparisons with 2006 data, NACE Rev.1 is used.

Of the total increase of 199,281 workers, the sector Health and Social Work showed the largest change, rising by 25,647 between 2011 and 2016. The sector Computer and Related Activities grew by over 50 per cent and now accounts for 63,855 workers. Construction, which saw a dramatic fall of 124,827 between 2006 and 2011, increased by 15,092 between 2011 and 2016.

There were 13,372 more persons working in the Hotel and Restaurants sector and 9,234 more persons working in the Education sector in 2016.

Public Administration and Defence witnessed the biggest fall in numbers by sector falling by 5,991 over the five years while Financial Intermediation (banking) saw a fall of 5,361.

See web table EZ030

It’s a fact!

5,991  The decrease in the number of people working in Public Administration and Defence between 2011 and 2016

25,647  The increase in the number of people working in the Health and Social Work sector between 2011 and 2016
Figure 3.2 Change in numbers at work by industrial group (NACE Rev. 1), 2006-2011 and 2011-2016

- Agriculture, Hunting & Related Service Activities
- Forestry & Fishing
- Mining, Quarrying & Turf Production
- Man. of Food Products & Beverages
- Man. of Tobacco Products
- Man. of Textiles, Wearing Apparel & Leather Goods
- Man. of Wood & of Products of Wood Etc Excl Furniture
- Man. of Pulp, Paper & Paper Products
- Publishing, Printing & Reproduction of Recorded Media
- Man. of Coke, Refined Petroleum Prod & Nuclear Fuel; Chemicals & Chemical Prod
- Man. of Rubber, Plastic & Other Non-metallic Mineral Products
- Man. of Basic Metals & Fabricated Metal Products, Excl Machinery & Equipment
- Man. of office Mach Comp, Mach Equip & Electrical Mach Apparatus n.e.c.
- Man. of Radio, Television & Comm Equipment & Apparatus
- Man. of Medical, Precision & Optical Instruments, Watches etc.
- Man. of Motor Vehicles, Trailers, Semi-trailers & Other Transport Equipment
- Man. of Furniture; Manufacturing n.e.c.; Recycling
- Electricity, gas & water supply
- Construction
- Sale, Maint/repair of Motor Vehicles/cycles & Retail Fuel Sales
- Wholesale Trade & Commission Trade, Except Motor Veh/cycles
- Retail Trade, Excl Motor Veh/cycles; Repair of Household Goods
- Hotels & Restaurants
- Land Transport; Transport via Pipelines
- Water Transport; Air Transport
- Auxiliary Transport Activities; Activities of Travel Agencies
- Post & Telecommunications
- Financial Intermediation, Except Insurance & Pension Funding
- Insurance & Pension Funding, Except Compulsory Social Security
- Activities Auxiliary to Financial Intermediation
- Real Estate Activities
- Renting of Machinery etc. Incl. For Personal & Household Use
- Computer & Related Activities
- Research & Development
- Other Business Activities
- Public Administration & Defence; Compulsory Social Security
- Education
- Health & Social Work
- Sewage & Refuse Disposal, Sanitation & Similar Activities
- Activities of Membership Organization n.e.c.
- Recreational, Cultural & Sporting Activities
- Other Service Activities; Private Households with Employed Persons
- Industry not stated

2011 minus 2006  2016 minus 2011
A service economy

Almost 4 out of every 5 jobs in Ireland in April 2016 were in the services sector (see Appendix 3 for more information on the economic sectors), which accounted for 78.6 per cent of all employment. This is in stark contrast to the situation 50 years ago when the sector accounted for 41.2 per cent of jobs.

Agriculture

The decline in the agriculture sector is evident from Figures 3.3 and 3.4, with the sector accounting for 4.6 per cent of total employment in 2016 compared with 31.3 per cent in 1966.

Industry

Employment in the industry sector stood at 16.8 per cent of total employment in 2016. This was up 0.1 percentage points since 2011 but down 12 percentage points from the 1986 peak of 28.8 per cent.

Males and females

The differences between male and female sectoral employment is illustrated in Figures 3.3 and 3.4. More than 9 out of every 10 women (90.7%), at work in Ireland in April 2016, worked in services. Just under 1 in 4 men (24.3%) worked in the industry sector in 2016, compared with 8.1 per cent of women.

It’s a fact!

53.5% The proportion of workers in the services sector in 2016 who were female

88.2% The proportion of workers in the agriculture sector in 2016 who were male