

# 5. Nationality

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Labour force participation

Top ten nationalities at work

Students, the retired and homemakers

Sectors of work

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### Non-Irish participation remains strong

Non-Irish nationals have traditionally had a higher labour force participation rate than their Irish counterparts, and while remaining strong at 73.9 per cent in 2016, it has fallen marginally from 74.2 per cent in 2011. The equivalent figure in 2006 was 75.7 per cent. The comparable rate for Irish nationals was 59.5 per cent in 2016, (down from 60.1% and 60.9% in 2011 and 2006 respectively).

When examined by gender, non-Irish male labour force participation has fallen to 80.3 per cent in 2016 from 84.4 per cent in 2006. However, non-Irish female participation has increased from 65.7 per cent to 67.5 per cent over the same period.

Similar trends can be seen for Irish males and females. Irish male participation in the labour force fell from 70.6 per cent to 65.9 per cent between 2006 and 2016. As with non-Irish female participation, Irish female participation increased over the ten years. Irish female participation was 53.4 per cent in 2016 compared to 51.4 per cent in 2006.

### Both non-Irish and Irish male unemployment rate the same

In 2016, the unemployment rate for both non-Irish and Irish males was the same at 13.8 per cent. Traditionally, the rate for non-Irish males was higher as illustrated in Figure 5.2. The unemployment rate for non-Irish females was 17.2 per cent, higher than the 11.1 per cent recorded for Irish females.

While the number of non-Irish at work has increased, the number who were unemployed has fallen, as illustrated in Figure 5.3.

[See web table EZ009](#)

Figure 5.1 Labour force participation, Irish and non-Irish, 2006-2016

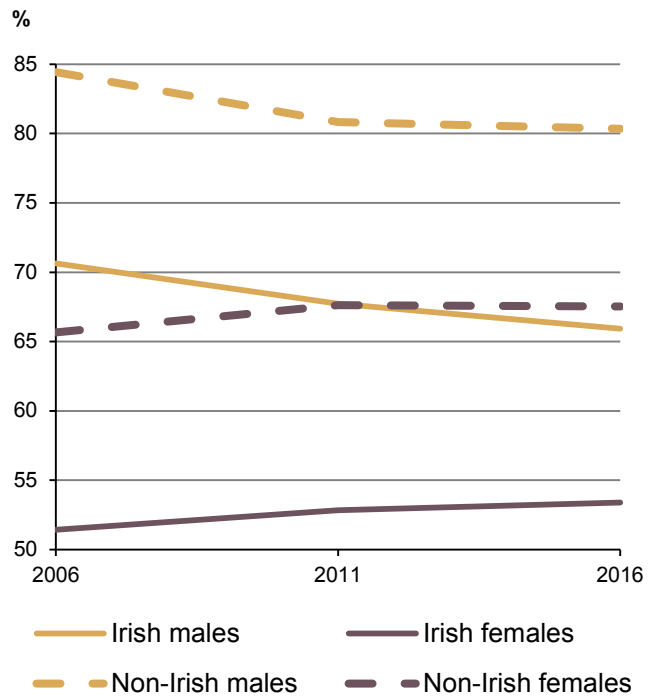
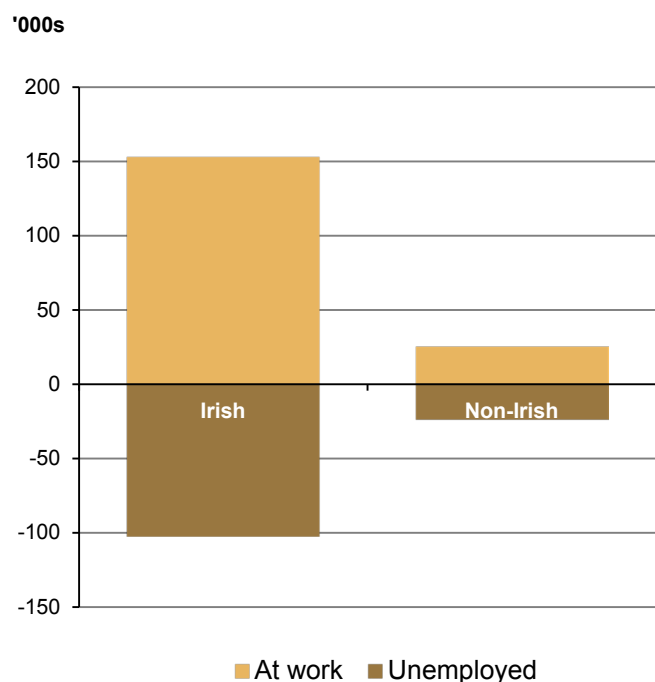


Figure 5.2 Unemployment rates, Irish and non-Irish, 2006-2016



**Figure 5.3 Change in number of Irish and non-Irish at work and unemployed, 2011-2016**



### More non-Irish at work

Over the five year period up to April 2016 the number of non-Irish nationals at work has increased by 25,650 from 268,180 to 293,830, an increase of 9.6 per cent.

The number of non-Irish students and homemakers has fallen by 1,545 (3.1%) and 2,766 (7.4%) respectively.

[See web table EZ009](#)

## It's a fact!

**293,830**

The number of non-Irish nationals at work in April 2016

**25,650**

The increase in the number of non-Irish nationals at work between 2011 and 2016

**1,647,596**

The number of Irish nationals at work in April 2016

**153,109**

The increase in the number of Irish nationals at work between 2011 and 2016

**Table 5.1 Irish and non-Irish nationals (usually resident in Ireland), 2016 and change since 2011**

	2016		Change 2011-2016		% Change 2011-2016	
	Irish	Non-Irish	Irish	Non-Irish	Irish	Non-Irish
	Number		Number		%	
<b>Labour force</b>						
At work	1,647,596	293,830	153,109	25,650	10.2	9.6
Unemployed	236,757	53,403	-102,307	-24,057	-30.2	-31.1
<b>In labour force</b>	<b>1,884,353</b>	<b>347,233</b>	<b>50,802</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Not in the labour force</b>						
Student	363,296	48,370	20,449	-1,545	6.0	-3.1
Looking after home/family	264,672	34,398	-31,042	-2,766	-10.5	-7.4
Retired	498,919	24,712	75,407	5,093	17.8	26.0
Unable to work	143,938	11,994	-1,195	2,226	-0.8	22.8
Other	10,745	3,127	2,257	-555	26.6	-15.1
<b>Total not in labour force</b>	<b>1,281,570</b>	<b>122,601</b>	<b>65,876</b>	<b>2,453</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Total aged 15 years and over</b>	<b>3,165,923</b>	<b>469,834</b>	<b>116,678</b>	<b>4,046</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>

### Non-Irish nationals at work

Between 2011 and 2016 the number of non-Irish national females fell by 4,106, but the number aged 15 and over increased by 2,236. The number at work also increased by 7,165 over the five years to 131,958.

A similar pattern can be seen among non-Irish males. The number of non-Irish males between 2011 and 2016 fell by 4,776. The number aged 15 and over increased by 1,810 while the number at work increased by 18,485 to 161,872 in 2016.

The increase in Romanian workers accounted for 35.4 per cent of the additional non-Irish workers in Ireland between 2011 and 2016 (9,077 out of 25,650).

[See web table EZ009](#)

Figure 5.4 Top 10 non-Irish nationals by gender at work, 2016

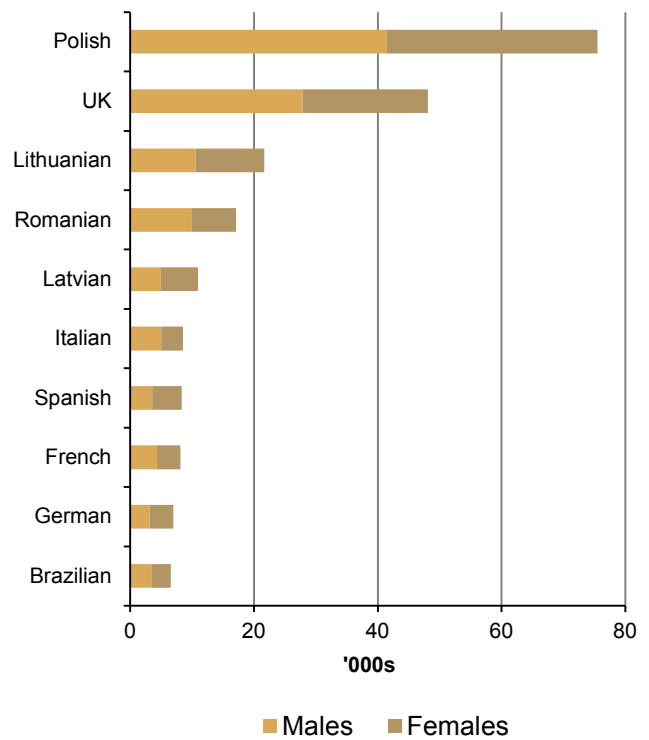


Table 5.2 Non-Irish nationals at work - change in the top 10 contributors, 2011 and 2016

	2011	2016	Change
Polish	69,473	75,508	6,035
UK	46,902	48,091	1,189
Lithuanian	19,753	21,674	1,921
Romanian	8,057	17,134	9,077
Latvian	10,782	10,980	198
Italian	5,318	8,545	3,227
Spanish	4,494	8,331	3,837
French	6,511	8,136	1,625
German	6,483	6,974	491
Brazilian	4,011	6,568	2,557
Other nationalities	86,396	81,889	-4,507
<b>Total</b>	<b>268,180</b>	<b>293,830</b>	<b>25,650</b>

*It's a fact!*

**121.7%**

The percentage increase in Romanian males at work between 2011 and 2016, the largest increase of any nationality

**17,134**

The number of Romanian people at work in April 2016

## Students, the retired and homemakers

There were 1,545 fewer non-Irish students aged 15 and over studying in Irish schools and universities in April 2016 compared with five years previously, a decrease of 3.1 per cent. Of these, 65.6 per cent were aged 19 and over.

Over the same period the number of homemakers among this group decreased by 2,766 or 7.4 per cent while the number of retired persons rose by 5,093.

[See web table EZ009](#)

### *It's a fact!*

# 48,370

The number of non-Irish students aged 15 and over

# 182

The number of different non-Irish nationalities studying in Ireland in 2016

**Table 5.3 Non-Irish students by nationality, 2006-2016**

Nationality	2006		2011		2016	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
UK	6,683	20.9	8,277	16.6	6,750	14.0
Chinese	4,616	14.4	4,586	9.2	6,514	13.5
Nigerian	1,890	5.9	3,533	7.1	4,207	8.7
US	1,515	4.7	2,860	5.7	2,642	5.5
Polish	966	3.0	2,270	4.5	1,966	4.1
Pakistani	933	2.9	2,134	4.3	1,720	3.6
Malaysian	909	2.8	1,702	3.4	1,372	2.8
French	872	2.7	1,294	2.6	1,337	2.8
German	860	2.7	1,234	2.5	1,294	2.7
Indian	824	2.6	1,192	2.4	1,229	2.5
Other	11,895	37.2	20,833	41.7	19,339	40.0
	<b>31,963</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>49,915</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48,370</b>	<b>100</b>

## Sectors and nationality

Of the 265,004 non-Irish nationals at work (with a stated industry) in April 2016, the Commerce and Trade sector accounted for 26.0 per cent (68,987) while the Professional Services sector accounted for 19.8 per cent (52,507). The sector Public Administration also recorded a fall in the number of non-Irish nationals at work (down 593) while all other sectors recorded increases over this period.

Looking at non-Irish nationalities in more detail (Figure 5.5), the largest fall was among Asian nationals in the Professional Services sector (falling by 7,053). The largest increase recorded was by Rest of Europe nationals (i.e. excluding Irish, UK and Polish) within the Transport and Communication sector, which increased by 5,122 over the five years.

### *It's a fact!*

**1,343**

The increase in the number of Rest of Europe nationals (i.e. excluding Irish, UK and Polish) working in the Building and Construction sector between 2011 and 2016

**5,225**

The number of Asian nationals working in the Professional Services sector in 2016 (down from 12,278 in 2011)

**Figure 5.5 Change in non-Irish residents at work by industry group, 2011-2016**

