Over one million workers transitioned within the Irish labour market in 2016.

Areas of skills shortage include chemists and analytical scientists, process and design engineers, software developers, accounting and data analytics, quantity surveyors and experienced construction project managers, medical practitioners, radiographers and nurses.

1.1 million people moved from employment to unemployment, from employment to retirement or inactivity, from inactivity to employment, unemployment to employment and so on.

Only 4% of those with a 3rd level qualification in 2016 were unemployed, 8% for those with Higher secondary or Further Education and Training and 12% for those with lower secondary level education or less.

Changes of employer were most frequent for professionals (IT programmers, doctors), skilled trades (electricians, carpenters), hospitality workers (chefs, waiters, catering assistants and managers, bar staff), services (hairdressers, child-minders, sales) and operatives (assemblers, construction, storage).

During 2016, employers continued to source skills from outside the EEA. Approximately 7,700 new employment permits were issued in 2016, a 27% increase on the previous year, and in 2016 unemployment continued to fall, long term unemployment fell to 3.6%.

Reversal of a recent trend of net emigration from Ireland with net 2016 migration of just over 16,000 people.

Reduction in youth unemployment, an increase in the participation rate and employment rate and a drop in the levels of underemployment of part time workers.