SOLAS
learning works
Introduction

The engagement between education and training providers and employers through the Regional Skills Forum needs to be based on the shared understanding of the labour market they are operating in. Both sides represent the key players in relation to the local labour markets, one on the side of the demand for skills (employers) and one on the side of the supply of skills (education and training providers). The availability of labour market information is critical in ensuring that the engagement between the education and training providers and employers results in an evidence-based, well-informed dialogue about the issues regarding the supply and demand for skills and a mutual agreement on how best to resolve issues identified.

The labour market information presented here is aimed at providing a starting point in relation to the evidence upon which the engagement should be based. It contains a selection of tables, charts and info-graphics on each region’s economy, labour market indicators (employment rate, unemployment rate etc.), demand (employment trends, profile of recent hires, vacancies, immigration statistics, estimates of recruitment requirement by broad skill group) and supply (graduate output and unemployment). It also provides an overview of some issues identified through recent analysis of the labour market, including skill shortages and labour turnover.

The data and analysis presented here has been prepared using the data held in the National Skills Database, which collates a wide range of datasets and models on demand and supply of labour at occupational level. This includes data from the Central Statistics Office, Department of Education and Skills, Department of Social Protection, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and a number of models for labour market analysis developed by the SLMRU, including the Labour Market Transitions Model and Occupational Employment Projections Model.

The information will be updated in line with the availability of updates of the underlying data sets.

Skills and Labour Market Research Unit (SLMRU), SOLAS

January 2019

regionalskills@solas.ie
Contents

• Regional profile
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  – Medium-large employers
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• Supply
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• Issues identified
  – Skill and labour shortages
Number of active enterprises by region (private business economy), 2016

Source: CSO, Business Demography 2016

Note: Private business economy covers NACE Rev. 2 sectors B to N (excluding activities of holding companies)
Number of active enterprises (private business economy), Midland, 2010-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>% change 2015-2016</th>
<th>% change 2010-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>14,118</td>
<td>14,066</td>
<td>14,165</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>242,692</td>
<td>248,843</td>
<td>250,033</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CSO, Business Demography 2016
Excludes NACE not stated

Note: Private business economy covers NACE Rev. 2 sectors B to N (excluding activities of holding companies)
Number of persons engaged (private business economy), Midland, 2010-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>% change 2015-2016</th>
<th>% change 2010-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>55,976</td>
<td>60,170</td>
<td>63,628</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>1,270,475</td>
<td>1,402,981</td>
<td>1,478,236</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CSO, Business Demography 2016
Excludes size not stated

Note: Private business economy covers NACE Rev. 2 sectors B to N (excluding activities of holding companies)
Number of active enterprises by sector, Midland, 2016

Source: CSO, Business Demography 2016
Distribution of active enterprises by sector, 2016

Source: CSO, Business Demography 2016
Distribution of active enterprises and persons engaged by company size, Midland, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size class</th>
<th>Midland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>94.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 19</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 49</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 249</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 and over</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size class</th>
<th>Midland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 19</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 49</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 249</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 and over</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CSO, Business Demography 2016
Distribution of persons engaged by sector, 2016

Source: CSO, Business Demography 2016
# Labour market & associated indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator / Statistic</th>
<th>Midland</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>*Target (if / where relevant)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>302,200</td>
<td>4,868,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Force</td>
<td>137,000</td>
<td>2,417,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation Rate</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>62.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment (15 and above)</td>
<td>127,200</td>
<td>2,273,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Rate (15-64)</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>69.1%</td>
<td>*69%-71%; **75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Employment</td>
<td>19,300</td>
<td>318,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment (15 &amp; over)</td>
<td>9,700</td>
<td>143,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate (15-74)</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Unemployment Rate (15-24)</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Unemployment Ratio (15-24)</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Unemployment Rate (15-74)</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Long Learning (LLL) participation rate (Q4 2017)</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>*10%; **15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO LFS data Q3 2018; *Ireland’s NSS targets **EU 2020 targets; * numbers too small to report.
Employment by sector (persons and % change), Midland

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO LFS data

*Numbers too small to report in ICT & Finance
Manufacturing employment by technological intensity, Midland, Q3 2018

4,600* 23%

High technology & Medium-high technology

79%

Medium-low-technology & Low-technology

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO LFS data

*number to be treated with caution
Employment by occupation, Midland, Q3 2018

- Skilled Trades: 25,700
- Professionals: 18,500
- Elementary Occupations: 17,800
- Process, Plant & Machine Operatives: 14,500
- Caring, Leisure & Other Services: 12,900
- Associate Professional & Technical: 10,400
- Administrative/Secretarial: 10,000
- Managers, Directors and Senior Officials: 8,700
- Sales/Customer Services: 7,900

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO LFS data
Recent job hires, 2018

Source: SLMRU Analysis of CSO LFS data
Recent job hires, Midlands, 2018

Level of education: % who held third level qualifications
Gender: % who are male
Nationality: % who are Irish
Full-time/part-time: % who are full-time

* Too small to report

Source: SLMRU Analysis of CSO LFS data
DSP Jobs Ireland vacancies, 2013-2017

Source: DSP Jobs Ireland; *refers to Jan-Jun only
DSP Jobs Ireland vacancies, State, Midland

Source: DSP Jobs Ireland; *refers to Jan-Jun only
## DSP Vacancies by occupation, Midland, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>Stock takers, Accounts assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled trades</td>
<td>Chefs, Fitters (mechanical/maintenance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Care assistants, Healthcare assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>Sales assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operatives</td>
<td>Production operatives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IrishJobs.ie vacancies, 2018

Overall vacancies

- Border: 9%
- West: 4%
- Mid-West: 6%
- South East: 7%
- South West: 11%
- Dublin: 6%
- Mid East: 2%
- Midland: 2%

Vacancies by sector

- Professional activities: 51%
- Information & communications: 18%
- Financial activities: 6%
- Health & social work: 5%
- Wholesale & retail trade: 9%
- Administrative: 4%
- Other: 7%

Vacancies by occupation

- Managers: 2%
- Professionals: 7%
- Associate professionals: 6%
- Administrative: 4%
- Skilled Trades: 6%
- Personal Services: 10%
- Sales & customer service: 24%
- Operatives: 24%
- Elementary: 6%

Source: IrishJobs.ie
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professionals</th>
<th>Quality engineers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales &amp; customer</td>
<td>Customer service advisor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Employment permits

New employment permits, 2018

State

Midland

Employment permits by region, 2014-2018

Source: DJEI
Job announcements, Midland, 2017-2018

Industry/Manufacturing
- TEG, Red Seal Cups Ltd, Avery
- Dennison Corporation Finesse
- Medical, Irish Manufacturing Research

Construction
- FastHouse, Off-Site Construction

ICT
- Neueda Technologies, Cisco

Finance
- RBK, Grant Thornton, EY, Irish Life

Retail
- Supermacs, Centra, Supervalu, JYSK, Mr Price

Services
- Skout, DPD Ireland, Homecare
- Independent Living, Just energy, Bluebird care, Irish Homecare, Smartzone, Dalata

Source: SLMRU analysis
Education and training providers, Midland

• 2nd level schools – throughout the region

• Further Education and Training
  – Longford and Westmeath ETB
  – Laois and Offaly ETB

• Higher Education
  – Athlone Institute of Technology
FET

• Awards data limited (to QQI awards)
• No awards data for other awarding bodies
  – City & Guilds
  – ICS (ECDL)
  – Vendor certification (e.g. Microsoft, Cisco etc.)
Apprenticeship: new registrations, Midland, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Laois Offaly</th>
<th>Longford Westmeath</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Construction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auctioneering and Property Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auctioneering and Property Services</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brick and Stonelaying</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpentry and Joinery</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting and Decorating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonecutting and Stonemasonry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Manufacturing and Finishing</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electrical</strong></td>
<td>53</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft Mechanics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Instrumentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Security Systems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumentation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigeration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SOLAS
### Apprenticeship: new registrations, Midland, 2018 (ctd)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Laois Offaly</th>
<th>Longford Westmeath</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farriery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Insulation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.A.M.F.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Fabrication</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipefitting</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheet Metalworking</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toolmaking</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Services (Insurance Practice)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Practice</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality and Food</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commis Chef</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SOLAS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Laois Offaly</th>
<th>Longford Westmeath</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ICT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT Network Engineering</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Logistics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motor</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Mechanics</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Plant Fitting</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy Vehicle Mechanics</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Mechanics</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Body Repairs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>152</strong></td>
<td><strong>121</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SOLAS
QQI (FET) major awards, Midland, 2010-2017

Source: QQI
QQI (FET) major awards by field & level, Midland, 2017

Source: QQI *Number too small to report in Education
Higher education awards, Midland, 2011/12 - 2016/17

Source: HEA
Higher education awards by field and level, Midland 2016/2017

Note: awards at NFQ 8 can either be undergraduate (hons bachelor degrees) or postgraduate (higher diplomas). In this document, there are two groups of awards, undergraduate, which comprises awards spanning NFQ 6-8 (excluding higher diplomas) and postgraduate which comprises awards spanning NFQ 8-10 (excluding hons bachelor degrees).

Source: HEA
Midland – Census 2016 data

- Total population – 292,301
- Population aged 15 plus – 224,479 (includes; Still at school or college, Looking for first regular job, Retired, Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability and Other)
- Cohort analysed – 79,497 (see table below highlighted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to secondary level, including no formal education</td>
<td>94,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical or Vocational qualification</td>
<td>18,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Certificate/Completed Apprenticeship</td>
<td>12,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Certificate</td>
<td>9,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Bachelor Degree or National Diploma</td>
<td>12,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours Bachelor Degree, Professional qualification or both</td>
<td>15,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate or higher</td>
<td>12,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated</td>
<td>12,144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO Census data
Midland - education level by economic status, 2016

Cohort of population analysed (79,497)

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO Census data
Midland - education level and field of study, 2016

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO Census data
Midland - education level and economic status by field of study, 2016

Population with a technical or vocational qualification, advanced certificate or completed apprenticeship*

29% of those At work are qualified in the Engineering, manufacturing & construction field of study.

13% of those Unemployed are qualified in the Services field of study.

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO Census data

*Post-secondary non-tertiary
Midland - education level and economic status by field of study, 2016

Population with a technical or vocational qualification, advanced certificate or completed apprenticeship*

- 22% of those Looking after home or family are qualified in the Social sciences, business & law field of study.
- 24% of those Other are qualified in the Engineering, manufacturing & construction field of study.

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO Census data

*Post-secondary non-tertiary
Midland - education level and economic status by field of study, 2016

Population with a higher certificate, ordinary or honours bachelor degree/professional qualification**

- 30% of those **at work** are qualified in the **Social sciences, business & law** field of study.
- 11% of those **unemployed** are qualified in the **Science, mathematics & computing** field of study.

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO Census data

**Third level
Midland - education level and economic status by field of study, 2016

Population with a higher certificate, ordinary or honours bachelor degree/professional qualification**

33% of those Looking after home or family are qualified in the Social sciences, business & law field of study.

23% of those Other are qualified in the Health & welfare field of study.

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO Census data

**Third level
Midland - postgraduate by field of study, 2016

Population with a postgraduate diploma/degree or doctorate qualification**

25% of postgraduates are qualified in the Social sciences, business & law field of study.

19% of postgraduates are qualified in the Health & welfare field of study.

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO Census data

**Third level
Live Register, 2012 - 2018

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO Live Register data
Live Register, Midland, 2012 - 2018

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO Live Register data
Live Register by region and age, Midland, 2018

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO Live Register data
Live Register by gender, Midland, 2018

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO Live Register data
Live Register by gender, Midland, 2017-2018

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO Live Register data
Job-ready job seekers, April 2017

Source: DEASP
Job-ready job seekers by occupation, Midland, January 2019

Source: DEASP
Job-ready job seekers, occupational composition, January 2019

Source: DEASP
Job-ready job seekers, by education, Midland, January 2019

Source: DEASP
Job-ready job seekers, occupational composition, January 2019

Source: DEASP
Unemployment, Midland, Q3 2018

9,700 unemployed persons (143,800 unemployed persons in Ireland)

• Unemployment rate: 7.1% (6.0% State)
• 40% were seeking a job for 12 months or more
• 57% were male
• 40% had no previous employment experience
• Youth unemployment rate was 17.8%

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO LFS data
Skills Shortages, Ireland, 2017

- **Professionals/associate professionals**
  - ICT (software developer, project manager, web developer, testing, security, technical support, systems/database administrator)
  - Engineering (production, process, quality, validation, product design/development, electronic, electrical, mechanical and chemical)
  - Science (analytical development chemist, biochemist, formulation scientist, microbiologist, QC analyst/validation technician)
  - Business & finance (risk, compliance, accounting, financial analyst, business intelligence, data analytics)
  - Health (doctor, nurse, radiographer, niche area specialists (e.g. prosthetists, radiation therapists, audiologists), managers)
  - Construction (construction and quantity surveyors with BIM (building information modelling), CAD, project managers, civil engineers)

- **Skilled trades** (chefs, tool making, welding (TIG, MIG), butchers/de-boners, steel-erectors, curtain wallers, glaziers, steelfixers, steel erectors, pipelayers, shuttering carpentry, shift managers and supervisors)

- **Sales** (technical sales, multilingual customer support, marketing specialist)

- **Operatives** (CNC, drivers (fork lift and special vehicle))

- **Retention issues** (care, chefs, butchers/de-boners, elementary)

Source: National Skills Bulletin, SLMRU