

December 2020

# COVID-19 AND NON-IRISH NATIONALS IN IRELAND

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Ivan Privalko, Helen Russell



## DATE

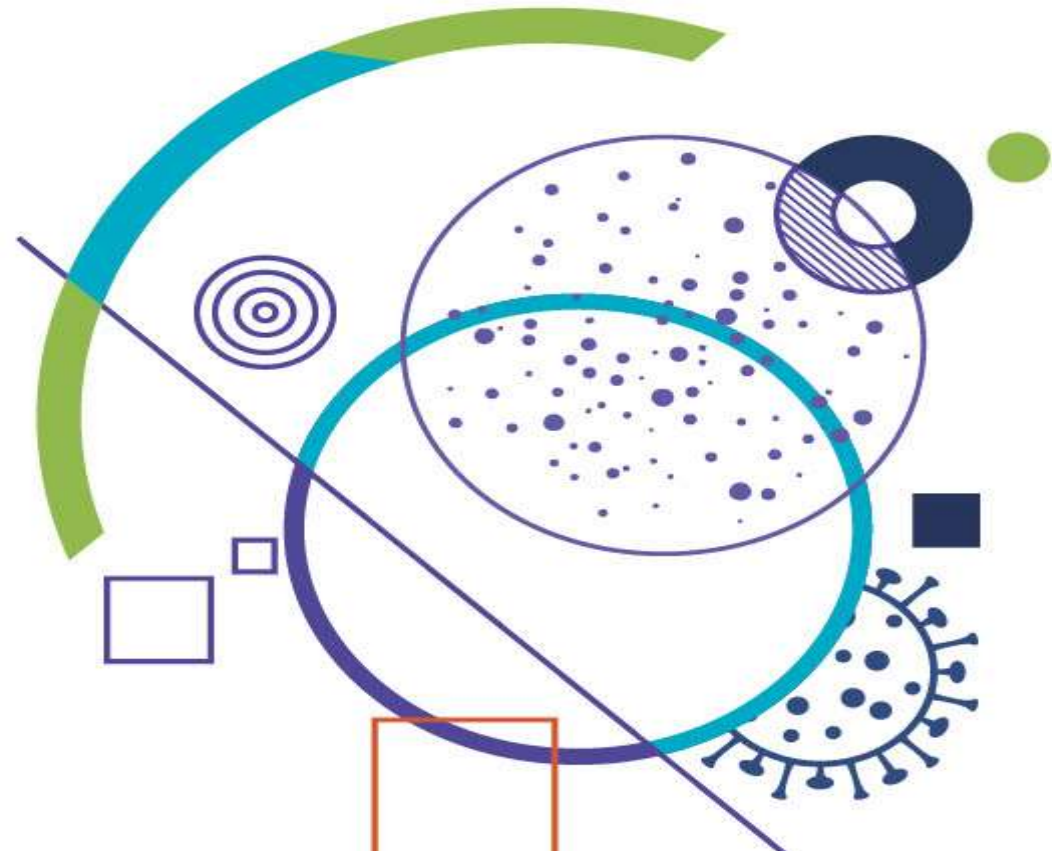
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

## EVENT

Report launch

## AUTHORS

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Ivan Privalko  
Helen Russell



## Background

- Migrants, foreign citizens and asylum seekers identified as particularly vulnerable to the direct and indirect effects of Covid-19
  - Economic issues (Fassani and Mazza, 2020), risk of infection and derogatory or xenophobic language (ENAR, 2020; FRA, 2020)
  - in many countries migrants overrepresented in both essential occupations and those hardest hit by the crisis (Gelatt, 2020; OECD 2020)
  - Though which groups most vulnerable varies across countries (OECD 2020)

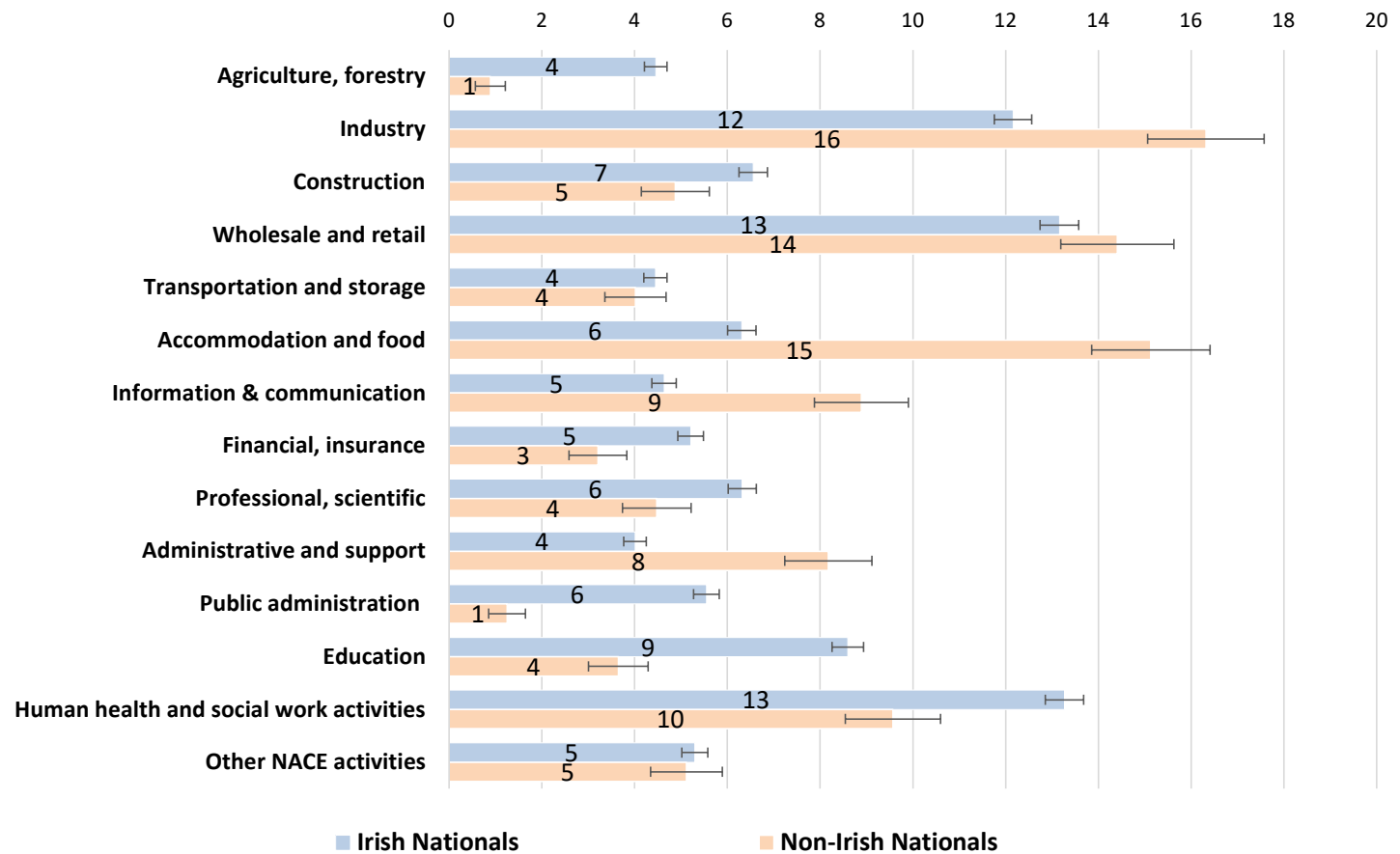
## Plan

- Examine the Impact of Covid-19 on the labour market outcomes of non-Irish nationals compared to Irish nationals
- Examine proportion of non-Irish classified as ‘key workers’
- Compare statistics on Covid deaths and cases by nationality and ethnicity

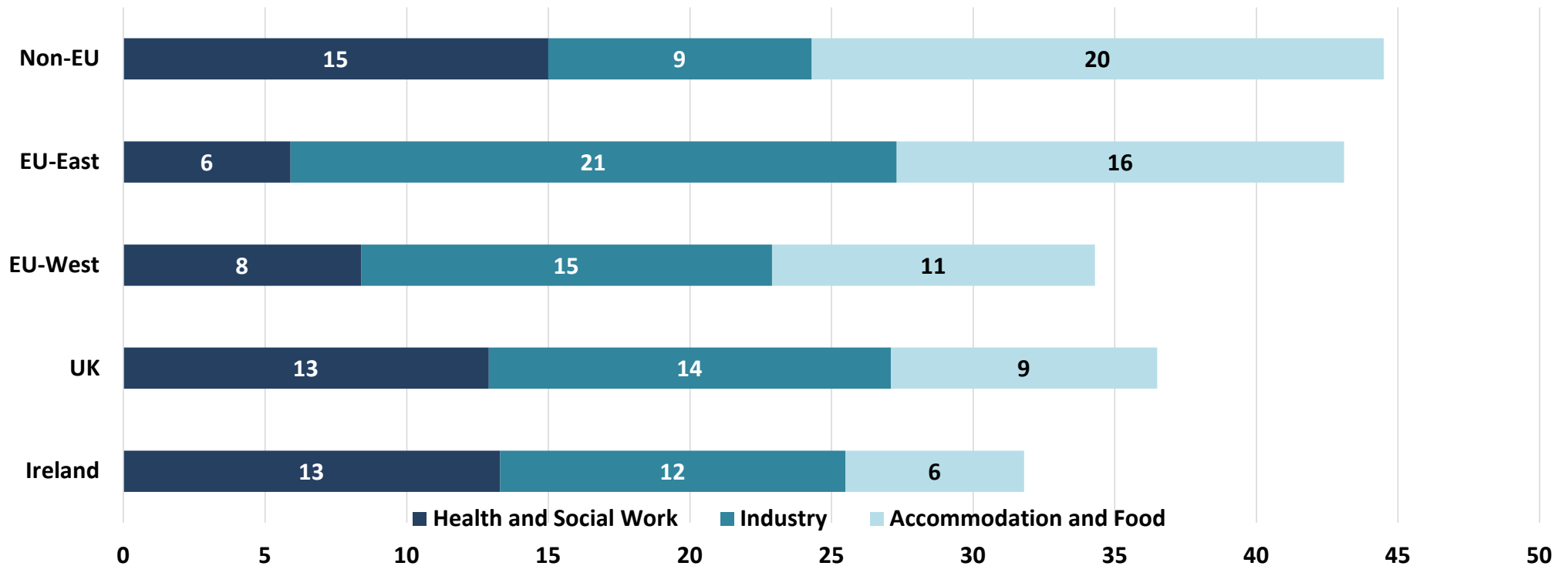
# Methodology

- Labour Market Impact
  - Employment pre-pandemic and essential workers LFS 2017-19
  - Impact of Covid on employment Q1 and Q2 data from the 2020 LFS
- Infection cases and deaths
  - CSO Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) database. Figures were matched to Census data (69% successfully linked)

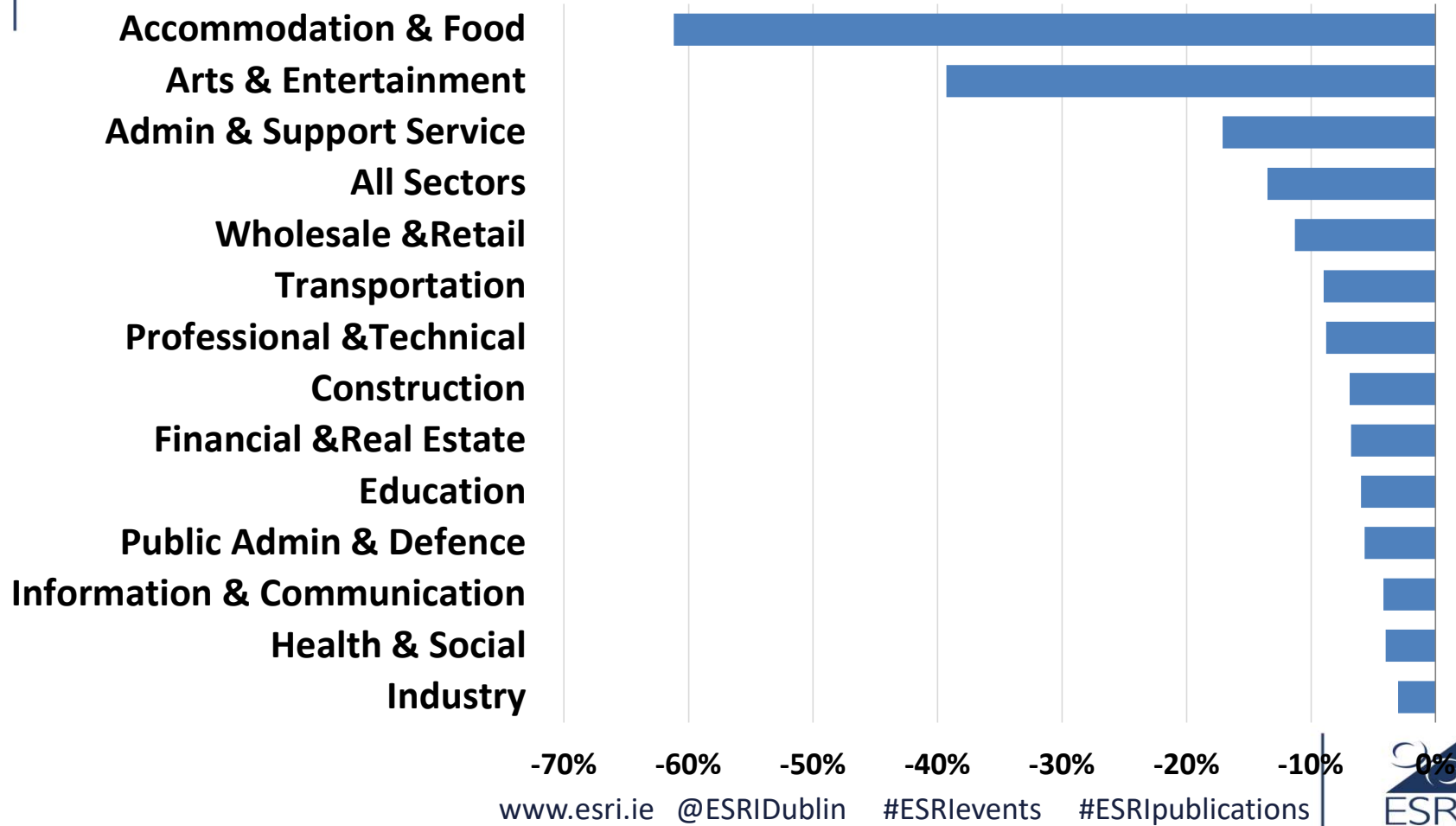
# Employment Pre-Pandemic (LFS Q1 2018 and Q1 2019)



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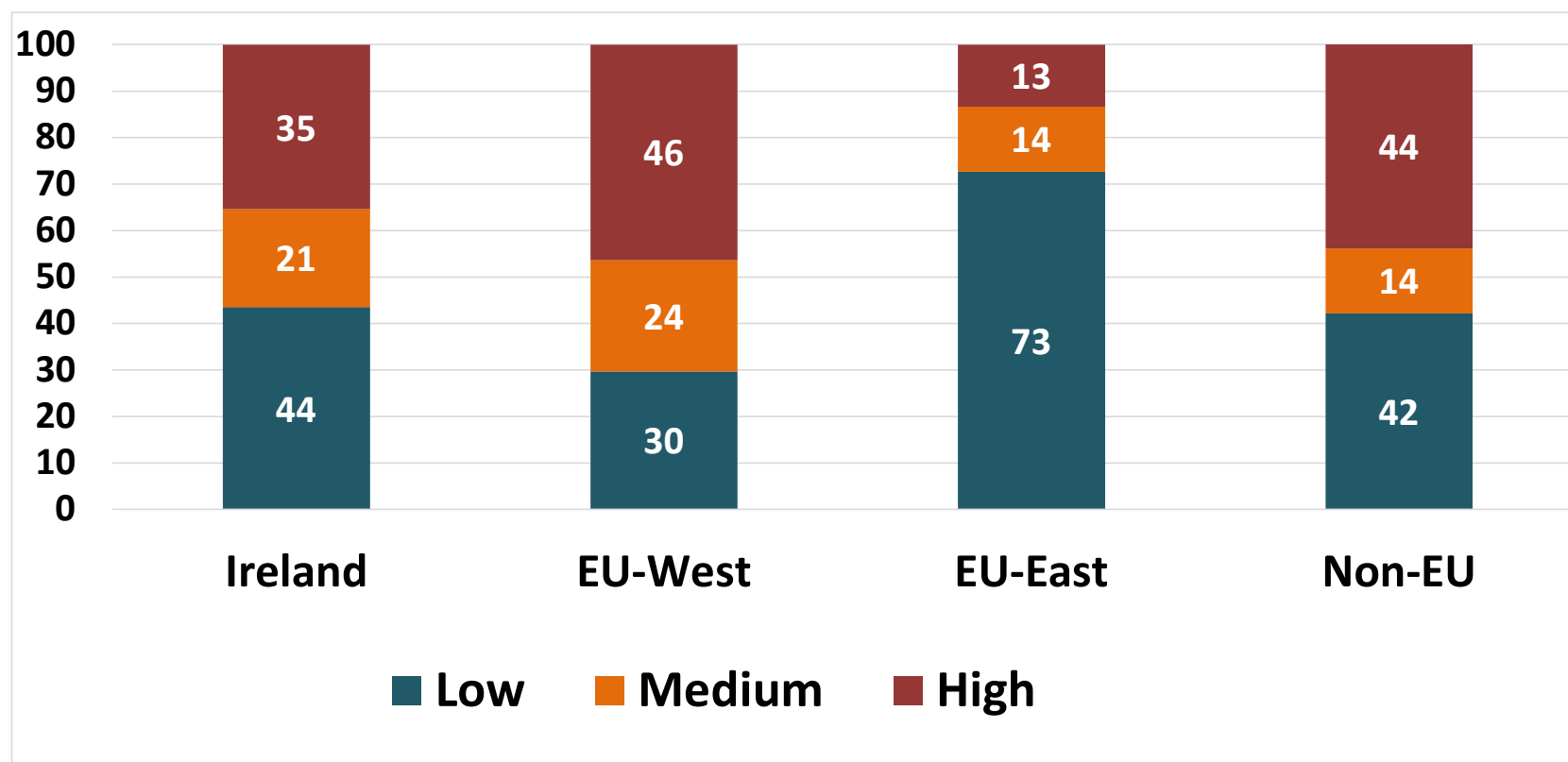


# Labour Market Impact of Covid-19



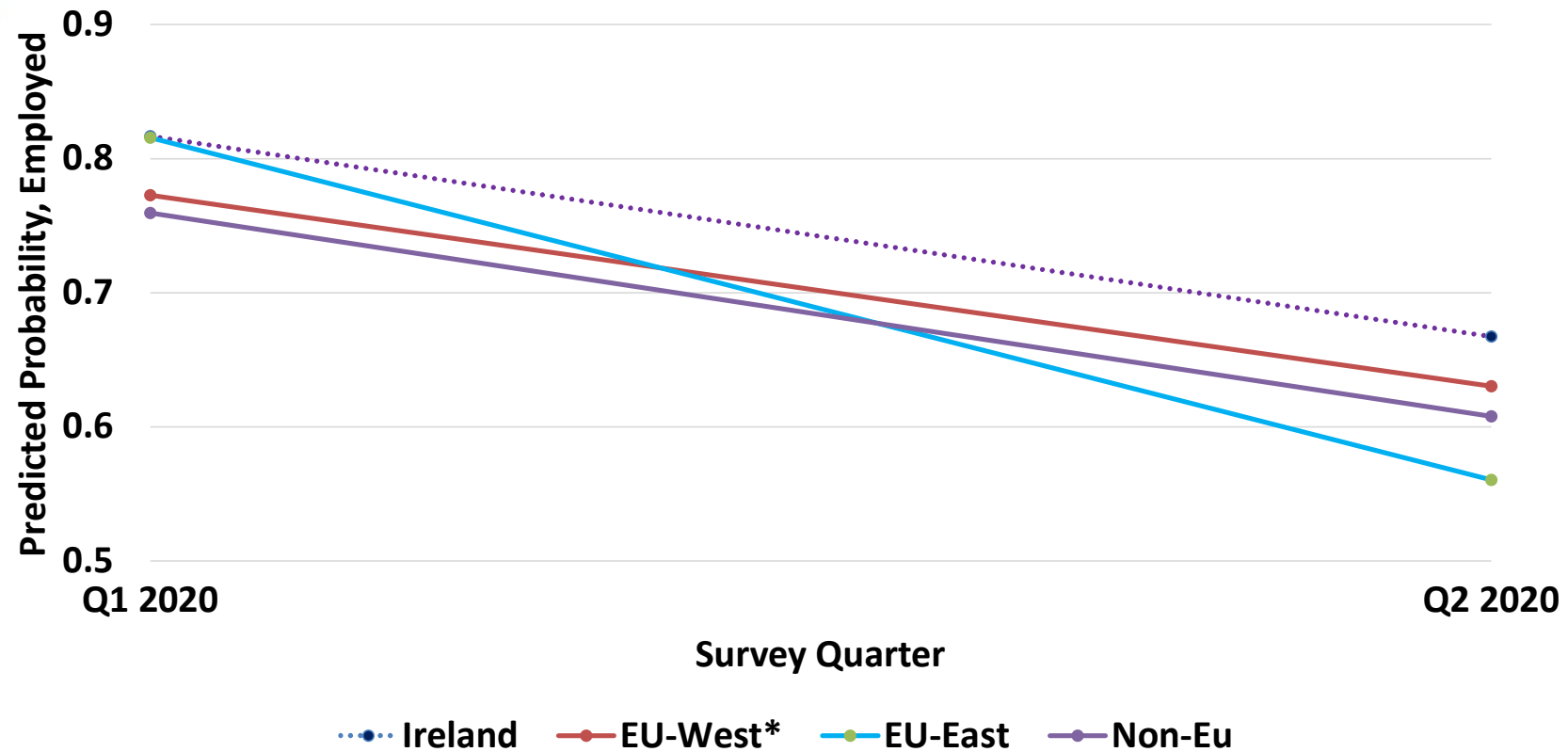
## % in occupations with low/high/medium “remotability”

EU east  
nationals  
concentrated  
in occupations  
with low  
remotability  
pre pandemic

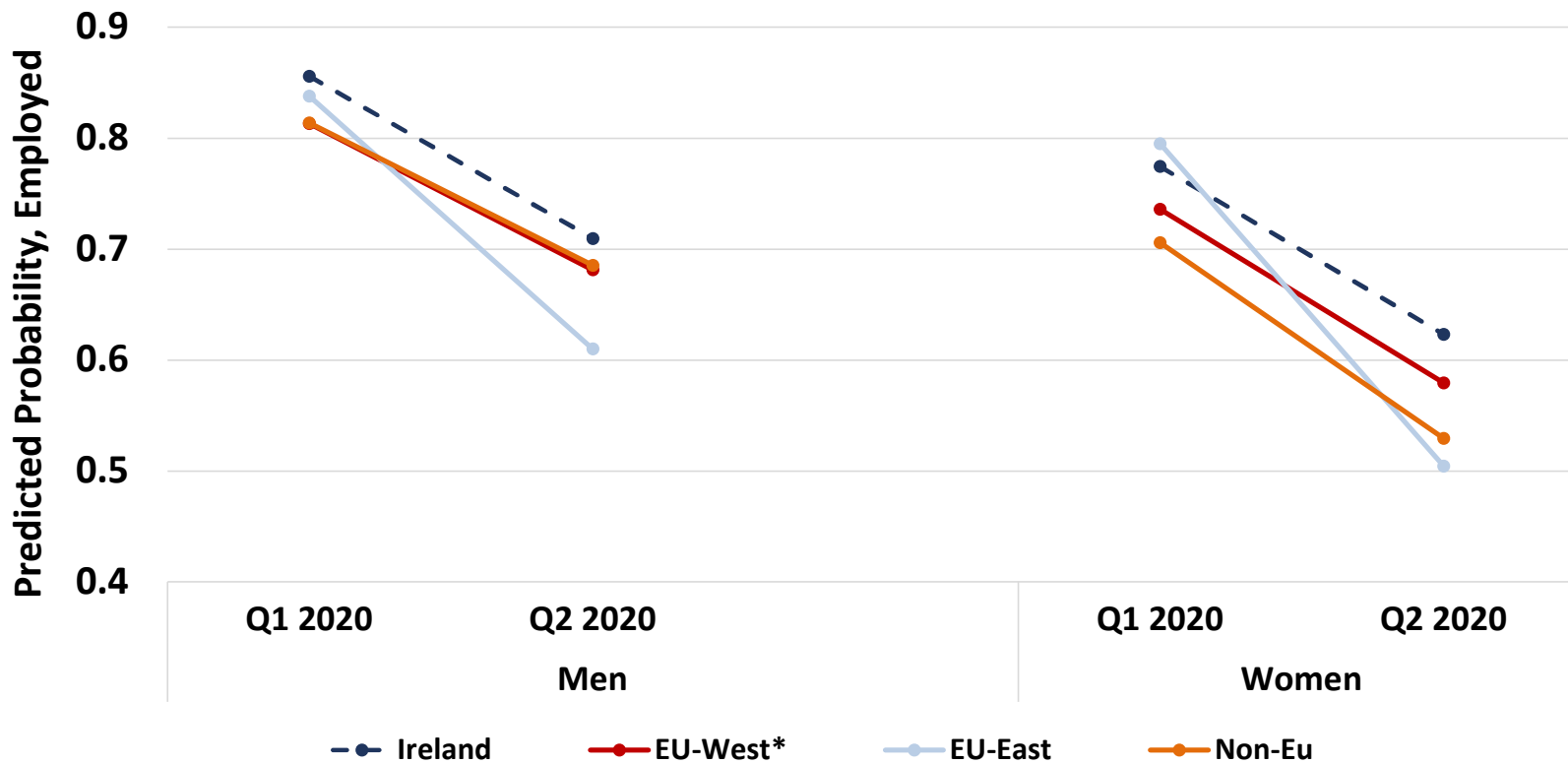




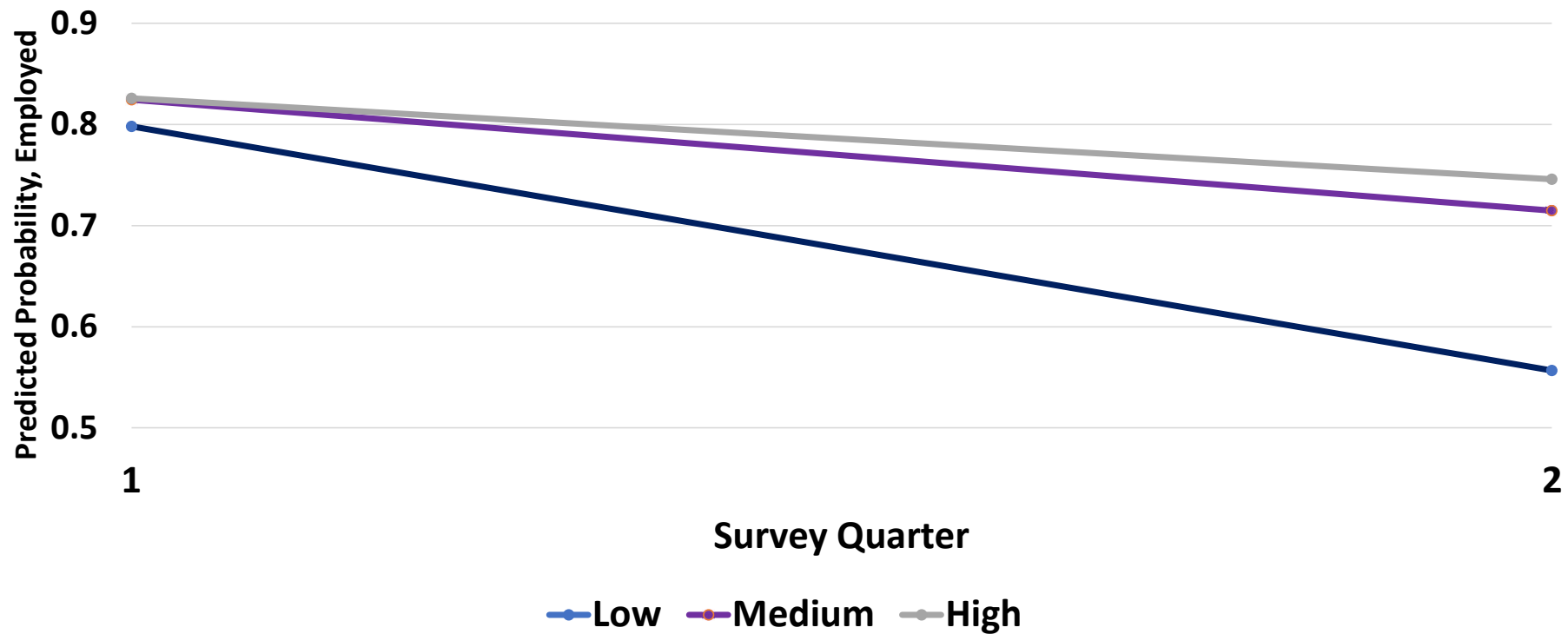
# Nationality and Employment Probability



# Nationality and Employment



# Job loss and 'Remotability'



## Nationality and Covid-Related Absence (Q2 2020)

- Covid-related absence= those who were temporarily away from job due to Covid but expected to go back to that job
- EU-East higher risk
  - Women
  - Graduates
- Non-EU nationals higher risk accounted for by occupation and sector

# 'Key Workers'



Based on govt list of employees deemed essential for lockdown 2.0

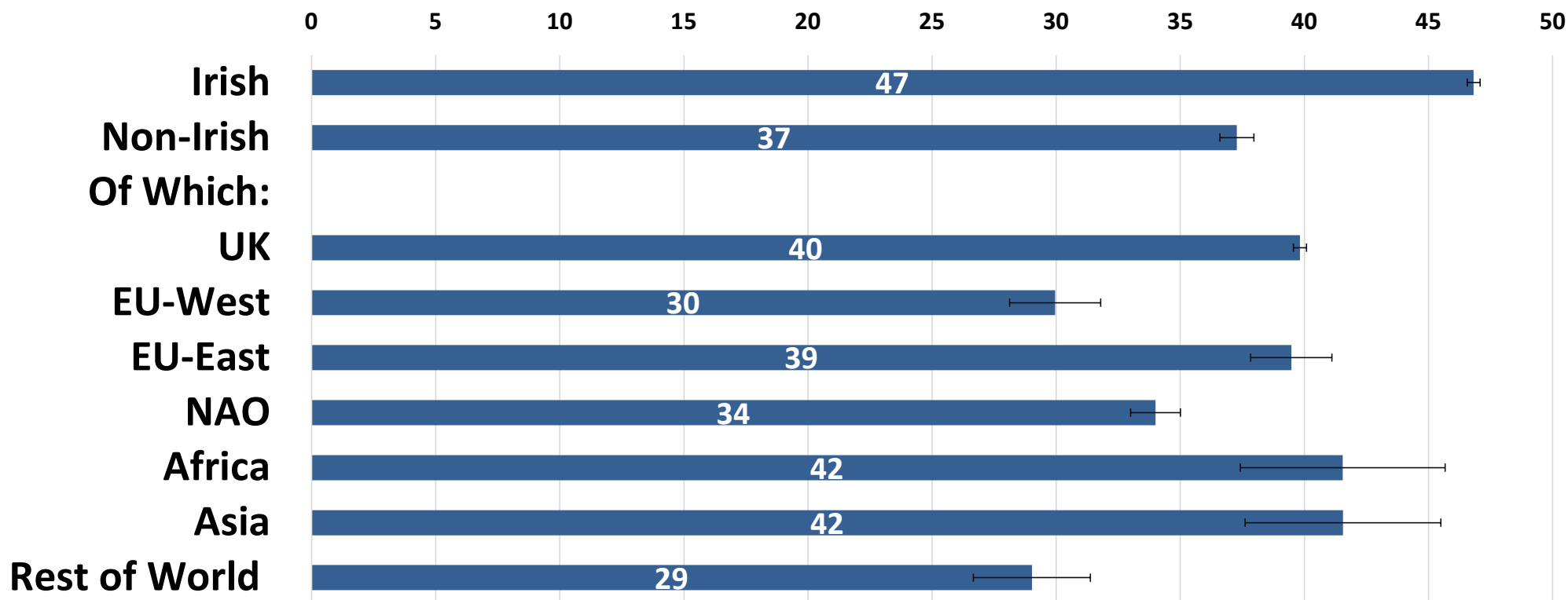


12 broad categories of 'key workers'



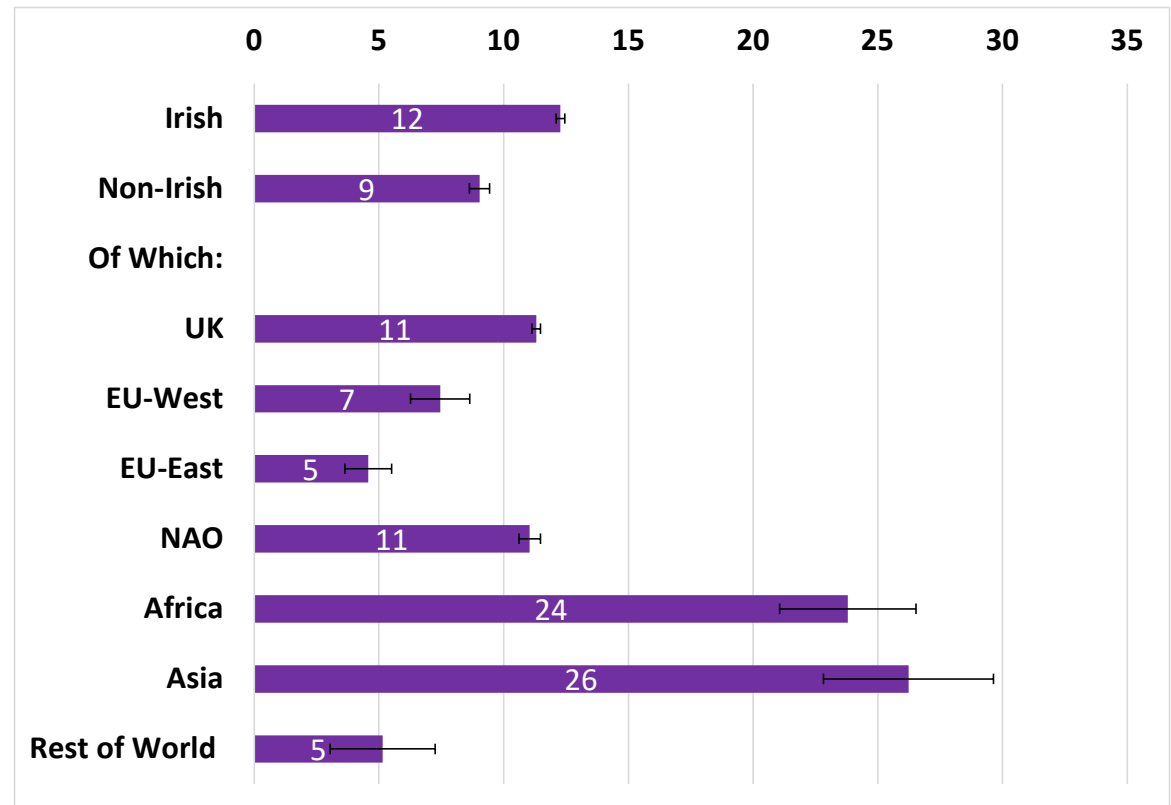
Irish nationals are significantly more likely to be defined as 'key workers'

## % of employed that are key workers (Level 5)

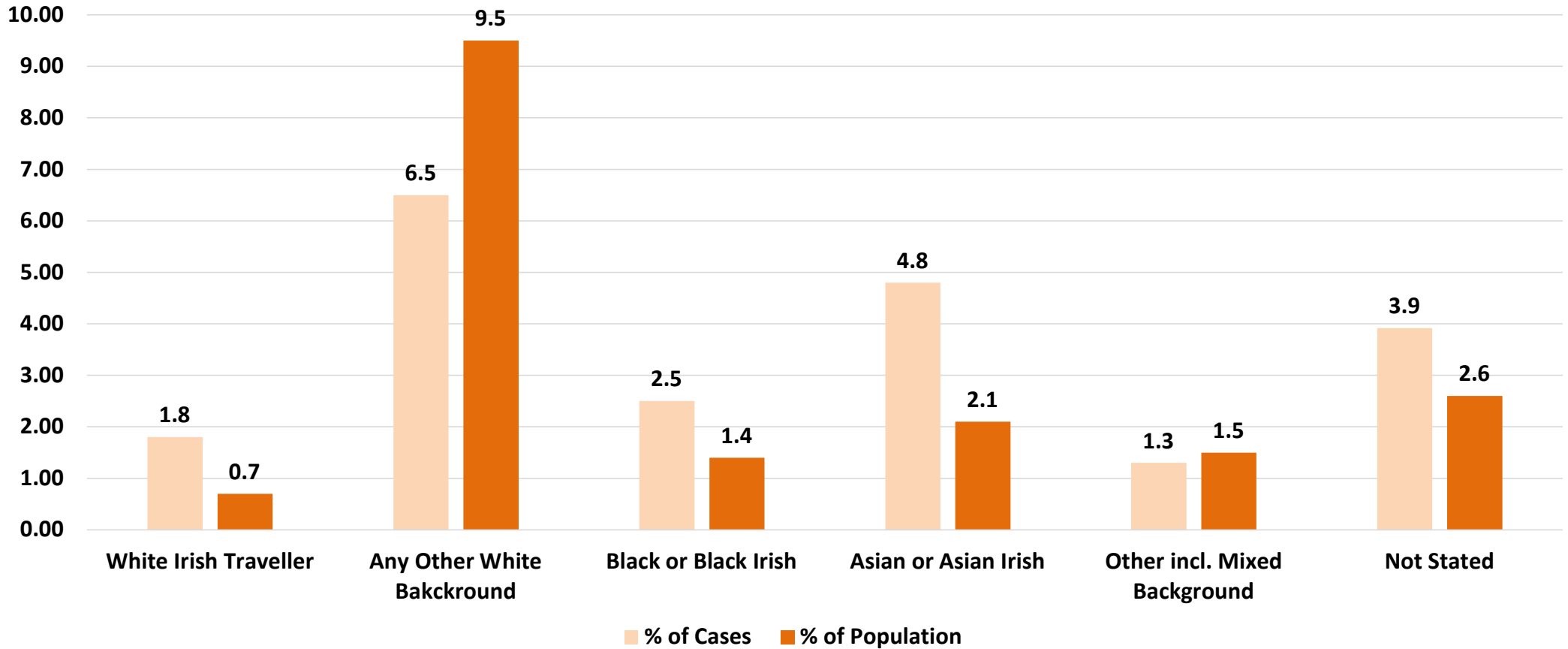


# Key Workers in Health and Related Sectors

- Health care and related sectors are one of the most at risk labour forces for contracting Covid
- As of 27<sup>th</sup> November 17% of cumulative confirmed cases were among health care workers
- African and Asian have significantly higher rates of employment in this sector



# Covid Cases (CSO, special tables)





## Covid Deaths (CSO, special tables)

- Ethnic minorities and non-Irish nationals under-represented in deaths from Covid
- <5 deaths among Travellers, Black or Asian population
- Likely related to age profiles of these groups
  - 92% of Covid deaths are among those aged over 65
  - <3% of ethnic minority groups >65 years, 10% White Irish.
  - 5% non-Irish nationals >65 years, 15% for Irish nationals
- Figures are incomplete, may change and numbers in some groups are small

## Limitations of the Research

- Definition of key workers has shifted multiple times throughout the pandemic
- Cannot distinguish different non-EU groups, though this group hides considerable variation.
- Cannot examine the impact of the COVID pandemic on asylum seekers and refugees using survey data available
- Very early to assess impact- patterns may change in coming months

## Conclusions

- Different pattern compared to other countries ....
- Occupational segregation by nationality implications for employment and disease risk
- EU East workers biggest labour market impact
- Some ethnic minorities higher cases, but no evidence of higher death rate
- Early impact – patterns may yet change in the coming months

Report available for download at:  
[www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie)

*Thanks for your attention!*

## Policy Response to Covid-19

- Labour Market Supports (€350 a week)
  - Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP)
    - Included international students and non-EU workers
    - Needed to have min PRSI contributions or on employers payroll
  - Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS)
    - Replaced by EWSS from 1<sup>st</sup> September
  - Covid-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit
    - All workers including those from non-EU/EEA countries are eligible

## Policy Response to Covid-19

- Migrant Specific Policy Response
  - Five automatic extensions of immigrant permissions that were due to expire
  - DoJE advised it would not seek info on immigration status from the DEASP and HSE
  - TRC's due to expire between 27<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> June were issued new cards
  - Protection applicants moved from emergency accommodation to dedicated accommodation centres

# Pandemic Related Support Payments

- PUP payments
  - Proportion non-Irish receiving PUP has risen marginally from 28% May to 29% November. Prop significantly higher than proportion in labour market Q1 2020 (17.5%)
  - EU-East and non-EU accounted for highest proportions
- TWSS payment
  - Non-Irish accounted for 24% of PUP compared to 17.5% labour force
  - EU-East accounted for highest proportion

Sector	Ireland	United Kingdom	EU-West	EU-East	Non-EU	Overall
Agriculture, forestry	4.5	1.4	0.2	1.0	0.9	3.9
Industry	12.2	14.2	14.5	21.4	9.3	12.8
Construction	6.6	5.4	1.3	7.2	2.5	6.3
Wholesale and retail	13.2	15.0	8.8	18.4	10.3	13.4
Transportation and storage	4.5	3.4	3.5	5.3	2.5	4.4
Accommodation and food	6.3	9.4	11.4	15.8	20.2	7.8
Information & communication	4.6	6.2	21.0	3.7	12.5	5.3
Financial, insurance	5.2	4.8	6.4	1.4	3.5	4.9
Professional, scientific	6.3	6.9	6.5	3.1	4.2	6.0
Administrative and support	4.0	5.0	7.2	9.7	8.0	4.7
Public administration	5.6	3.3	0.9	0.8	1.1	4.8
Education	8.6	6.1	6.1	1.5	4.4	7.8
Human health and social work activities	13.3	12.9	8.4	5.9	15.0	12.7
Other NACE activities	5.3	6.12	3.6	5.0	5.7	5.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100