

ESRI ANNUAL REPORT 2018



The Council is the Institute’s overall governing body and acts as its board of directors. In association with the director and staff, the Council is responsible for the development of the Institute’s research strategy. The Council meets quarterly and is supported by its three sub-committees: Audit and Risk, Business and Operations, and Nominations. Section 7 provides a short biography of Council Members.

The Council

MEMBERS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018



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Chairperson***



***Professor A. Barrett,
Director***

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MR DAVID MOLONEY, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Mr RONAN MURPHY, former PwC, current board member of Davy, ICON PLC and Greencoat Renewables PLC

MR SEAN O’DRISCOLL, Former Chairperson and Chief Executive of the Glen Dimplex Group

PROFESSOR ROWENA PECCHENINO, Maynooth University

DR ORLAIGH QUINN,¹ Secretary General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

MR PAT RABBITTE, former Minister and former leader of the Labour Party, and Chairperson of Tusla – Child and Family Agency

PROFESSOR SALLY SHORTALL, Newcastle University

¹ Joined Council in May 2018.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) aims to advance evidence-based policymaking that supports economic sustainability and social progress in Ireland. The Council of the ESRI supports this work by setting and overseeing the Institute's strategic objectives, establishing the required quality standards and ensuring that the independent analysis provided by the Institute remains relevant to the economic and social issues facing policymakers in Ireland today. While the Council is responsible for internal governance, Council members play no role in preparing or commenting on specific research.

This Introduction sets out the Council's views on how the Institute maintains its reputation as a centre for excellence in independent policy-focused research. It also includes a brief overview of the Institute's governance and its research output in 2018, the fifth and final year of its 2014-2018 research strategy.

Independence and funding

The Institute's research strategy reaffirms the importance of the ESRI's commitment to producing research that is independent, objective and of high quality. Independence is assured through the contractual relationships between the Institute and its clients and underpinned by a policy of publishing research, regardless of the findings or source of funding. Quality, objectivity and independence are further supported by a rigorous peer review system, which is examined regularly by the Council, and by peer reviews of the Institute itself.

In recent years, the Institute has focused on building financial sustainability through multi-annual programmes of research funded by a number of government departments and agencies. The Council acknowledges the importance of the continued support from government in the form of the annual grant-in-aid which is provided by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. It recognises the significant contribution of many government departments and agencies that funded research programmes in 2018. The other major sources of research funding for the Institute come from competitive funding processes, both in Ireland and in the EU.

The Council also recognises the contributions of individuals and companies that are subscribing ESRI members. These membership subscriptions support the work of the Institute and contribute to ensuring its independence.

Council governance

The Council of the ESRI continues to ensure that its standards of corporate governance operate to the highest level. There is a high level of awareness regarding where potential conflicts of interest can arise and a strong commitment to ensuring that Council membership is appropriately balanced. The Council's Nominations sub-committee monitors the membership to ensure that the Council has the requisite skills, broad sectoral coverage and gender balance.

Normally, Council membership is for a three-year period, with a renewal being common for a further three years. Council members are not paid any fees for their membership of the Council. Members are nominated through a formal process and elected at the Institute's AGM.

In 2018, Pdraig McManus continued his term as Chairperson. John Buckley, John Martin, Rowena Pecchenino and Rónán Murphy served on the Audit and Risk sub-committee; Hannah McGee, Bríd O'Brien served on the Business and Operations sub-committee until May 2018; from May on, this sub-committee comprised Emer Gilvarry, Sean O'Driscoll, Pat Rabbitte and Alan Barrett. Emer Gilvarry, Pdraig McManus and Alan Barrett served on the Nominations sub-committee.

Hannah McGee and Bríd O'Brien retired from the Council in 2018, having reached the end of their second three-year terms. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Hannah and Bríd for their enormous contributions to the Council. Dr Orlaigh Quinn, Secretary General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, joined the Council in May 2018 and it is a pleasure to welcome Orlaigh to the Council.

Research outputs in 2018

In 2018, the Institute advanced its research strategy through significant output across its 12 research areas. Our research was disseminated in 44 reports, 62 journal articles and 11 book chapters, in addition to two Research Notes and five Special Articles published with the *Quarterly Economic Commentaries*. Summaries of journal-published research studies were published in 28 Research Bulletins. Work-in-progress was disseminated in 26 Working Papers.

The *Quarterly Economic Commentary* continued to convey the Institute's outlook for the Irish economy in 2018. While noting the substantial growth experienced over recent quarters, the *Commentary* has been primarily concerned with underlying trends in growth and potential exposure to external risk factors, particularly Brexit. The Institute's model of the macroeconomy, *COSMO*, informed analyses of Brexit scenarios and also other economic developments and policies including the National Development Plan.

In November, we launched a new model to examine climate policy issues, the Ireland Economy, Energy and Environment Model (I3E). I3E is a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model describing the relationship between energy inputs and environmental impacts (focusing on emissions), production sectors, households and the government. Initial research examined sectoral and distributional impacts of increases in the carbon tax. Given the importance of climate change, this new model is an important addition to the Institute's research infrastructure.

Housing was another issue which featured prominently in 2018. Through our joint research programme with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, we looked at housing demand and supply in order to draw policy implications. One study examined housing affordability and looked at the distribution of housing costs across households. In so doing, the rental challenges faced by low-income households in the private rented sector were quantified.

In a year in which gender equality issues received greater attention, our work on the gender impact of tax and benefit policies was an important contribution. This research found little difference in the

effect of tax-benefit policy by gender among single people. However, within couples, the last decade of budgetary policy resulted in sharper reductions to women's disposable income compared to that of their spouse. This was particularly the case in households with children. Team members presented results from this research to the Oireachtas Committee on Budgetary Oversight. The ability to carry out gender impact analysis is now available to government users of the ESRI tax-benefit model.

Growing Up in Ireland

In 2018, the latest wave of data collection was completed on the '08 Cohort (most of whom were born in 2008 and formerly called the 'Infant Cohort'). The first results from this data sweep were published in three Key Findings in November 2018, focusing on physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development. Data collection commenced for the next wave of the '98 Cohort (most of whom were born in 1998 and formerly called the 'Child Cohort') and will be completed in 2019. In 2018, we also held the tenth Annual GUI conference. In total, 23 papers using GUI data were presented at the conference, along with an introductory launch presentation, a keynote address by Professor Ingrid Schoon of University College London and a policy session.

People

Sadly, 2018 saw the passing of three former members of the ESRI Council. Sean Cromien and Tom Considine were both former Secretaries-General of the Department of Finance. Louden Ryan had been Professor of Economics at Trinity College Dublin. All three brought their immense knowledge and experience to the Council and made significant contributions in supporting the work of the Institute.

The Council would like to commend the Institute's staff whose expertise and commitment enables the Institute to continually identify new solutions to policy challenges. The Council would also like to thank the government departments and state agencies who support critical research programmes, ESRI Members who provide valuable ongoing support, and the many stakeholders who engage with the work of the Institute. Such support enables the Institute to work towards realising its vision of 'Informed Policy for a Better Ireland'.

Padraig McManus
Chairperson

Alan Barrett
Director

2. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Implementation of the Institute's research strategy ensures that the Institute contributes evidence to inform policy debate and decision-making.² The Strategy outlines the Institute's priority actions for the period in the context of the Institute's mission, vision, goals and values. These were developed by the Council in agreement with the staff, following a comprehensive strategic process in 2014. Our goals of *research excellence* and *policy impact* are being pursued through three sets of strategic actions related to research programmes, collaborations and dissemination. They are being supported by a further three sets of actions relating to funding, human resources and business processes. These goals and actions help to ensure that the Institute stays focused on its key role as a centre for excellence in policy-focused research in Ireland in the economic and social domains.

The Council oversees the implementation of the research strategy through twice-yearly reports to the Business and Operations sub-committee. The reports cover the research agenda across the 12 research areas, as well as the implementation of the strategic actions.

This section briefly sets out the progress made in 2018 in delivering on the actions designed to meet our goals of research excellence and policy impact. It looks at progress in relation to research activity, followed by research supports – generating funding, developing human resources and improving business processes.

2.1 Research activity

These strategic actions relate to developing research areas, building collaborations and improving dissemination. In each case, we provide illustrations of developments that took place in 2018 in relation to these strategic actions.

2.1.1 *Developing research areas*

Brexit continued to prompt new avenues of research in 2018 as different routes of potential impact came into focus. For example, in one study we examined the share of imported products from the UK in household spending and estimated the effects of a hard Brexit scenario, incorporating tariffs and other increases in costs of trade between the EU and UK. Taking a completely different area, a new research programme with the HSE will see the Institute developing a presence in the area of well-being and health among children. Well-being is increasingly viewed as a more comprehensive goal for policymakers compared to, for example, income or specific health or educational outcomes so this is an important development for the ESRI.

2.1.2 *Collaborations*

We have expanded the number of joint conferences and workshops with policymakers partly so that we can learn more about the issues that are current for them. One example was a workshop convened by our health research team with the Department of Health on the topic of unit cost measures in health systems. This added to longer-established joint conferences with colleagues from the Departments of Engineering in UCC and UCD. We have also continued joint work with colleagues

² A copy of the ESRI's *Research Strategy 2014-2018* (2014) can be downloaded at: <https://www.esri.ie/publications/esri-research-strategy-2014-2018>

in the Departments of Finance and Housing, through which ESRI researchers co-author studies with officials from those departments.

2.1.3 Dissemination

We have continued to improve our dissemination through our website and social media. The website was redesigned in 2018. The site is now more user friendly and more visually appealing. Over 4,000 publication records were migrated and the database was rebuilt. Research output is now presented in a variety of ways across the site, including in thematic ‘showcases’. In another development, the Institute produced and posted video content for the first time in 2018: the Autumn QEC media briefing; the Winter QEC briefing; and the 2018 Geary Lecture, delivered by Philip Lane, Governor of the Central Bank. Shorter thematic clips were also produced and shared on social media, e.g. a short-term outlook for Ireland’s post-Brexit economic growth.

2.2 Research supports

These strategic actions relate to generating funding, developing human resources and improving business processes. In each case we provide some illustrations of developments that took place in 2018 in relation to these strategic actions.

2.2.1 Generating funding

With so much of our funding now coming through multi-annual research programmes, ensuring the continuation of programmes is a key objective. For this reason, the decision by the Environmental Protection Agency to extend our agreement for another two years, with a commitment of €600,000, was very welcome and will allow us to build on our work in the area of health and the environment. Another objective is to broaden our funding base – in this context, a new project with the Department of the Economy in Northern Ireland was also very welcome. The following existing programmes were also renewed in 2018: Department of Finance; Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection; Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; and the European Migration Network/Department of Justice and Equality.

2.2.2 Human resources

An employment engagement survey was completed in late 2017 and results were fed back to staff and to the Council in early 2018. While the results were very positive overall, actions in specific areas such as career development were recommended. Hence, an implementation plan was designed and initiated in 2018. The year also saw the retirement of two research professors who had led important areas within the ESRI for many decades. Succession plans had been put in place and these came into operation over the summer months. The new leaders are now in place and the transitions have been largely seamless.

2.2.3 Business processes

GDPR was a prominent issue in 2018. A large number of actions were taken including the appointment of a Data Protection Officer and an audit by the internal auditors. More broadly, the new ESRI Strategy 2019-2023 was completed towards the end of 2018 and was approved by the Council. This new strategy will guide actions in the ESRI for the coming years. Our mission has been

amended and is now ‘to produce economic and social research on key issues facing Ireland and to *communicate research results* to inform public policymaking and civil society’. This new focus on communications is included recognising the need for the Institute to work proactively to ensure that the lessons from our research are absorbed into the policy formation process.

3. RESEARCH IN 2018

This section provides an overview of our research activities and findings for 2018 and a brief summary of research across the 12 research areas in 2018. Further details on the research and the researchers involved are available on the ESRI website.

3.1 Behavioural Economics

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Irish consumers do not understand important aspects of Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) plans. Consumers have difficulty telling the difference between good and poor PCP deals, or understanding what happens at the end of the deal.
- Research identified features of credit, investment and insurance products that either are poorly understood by consumers or bias their decisions. There is evidence that many consumers find modern financial products difficult to deal with, with implications for their financial outcomes.

The behavioural economics research area revolves around the Behavioural Research Unit (BRU), a team of multidisciplinary scientists who use controlled experiments to investigate economic decisions and behaviours. The BRU has many research programmes that made progress in the second half of 2018.

An experiment was undertaken to pre-test calorie posting on restaurant menus. This experiment, funded by the **Department of Health**, employed eye-tracking technology to record how much attention consumers give to calorie labels. The results showed that labels do affect food choices and that the format affects the weight that consumers give them.

The BRU completed five laboratory experiments under the PRICE Lab research programme, funded by the **Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)** and **Commission for Energy Regulation**. Topics included adoption of smart meters, marketing of broadband speed, premium rate telecoms services, understanding mortgages and mortgage switching, and biases in consumer choices towards options seen first. Results will all be available in 2019.

The BRU completed and published a substantial review of international evidence on financial product features for the **Central Bank of Ireland**. The work identified specific features of credit, investment and insurance products that cause consumers difficulty.

The BRU completed three studies for the **Pensions Authority**. Multiple experiments revealed shortcomings in people's understanding of how pensions work, leading them to (i) underestimate money growth; (ii) fail to respond to tax incentives; (iii) make inconsistent decisions about annuities. The studies also tested interventions designed to address these problems.

The BRU completed a literature review for **Sport Ireland** on behavioural interventions designed to increase physical activity in socially disadvantaged areas. This review informed designs for field trials to be undertaken in 2019.

A statistical model was developed for the **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine** to identify farms most at risk of breaching EU Nitrates regulations. The model is to be used to target behavioural interventions designed to reduce pollution from Irish farms.

In a research programme funded by **Irish Water**, the BRU undertook a review of communications and relevant evidence regarding take-up of remediation measures to remove lead from household drinking water. Trials of interventions will follow.

In research funded by the **OECD**, a first experiment was undertaken in collaboration with the **Water Industry Commission for Scotland**. The study showed that households dislike putting off inevitable price increases. The BRU has designed a subsequent study to explore how households trade off water charges against environmental and service benefits.

Lastly, experiments were designed to investigate how people assess environmental risks associated with mineral extraction. This is the first step in a **Horizon 2020** project funded by the **European Commission**, undertaken in collaboration with the Geological Survey of Ireland.

3.2 Children and Young People

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Overweight and obesity continued to be a problem for children at 13 years of age. Twenty per cent of 13-year-olds were overweight and 6 per cent were obese. Girls were significantly more likely than boys to be overweight or obese.
- 23 per cent of 9-year-olds had an online profile. Boys' profiles were largely related to computer gaming and girls' profiles were more likely to be related to social media.

Work in this area examines developmental outcomes for children and young people and how these vary between different groups in society. Much of the research in this field at the ESRI is closely tied to the **Growing Up in Ireland** project, the national longitudinal study of children.

Significant progress was made throughout the year in terms of data collection and the preparation of databases for research. Interviewing was completed with over 8,000 9-year-olds and their families in the project's younger Cohort '08 (Infant Cohort), and interviewing commenced with the 20-year-olds in the older Cohort '98 (Child Cohort). Databases delivered for use by other researchers included the data for Cohort '98 at age 17 and for Cohort '08 at age 7/8.

In October, Katherine Zappone, T.D., Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, launched research about the lives of 13-year-olds. Findings from the study indicated that children from more socially disadvantaged backgrounds were at higher risk of poorer outcomes in terms of their physical health, education and emotional and behavioural well-being.

The tenth *Growing Up in Ireland* Annual Research Conference was held in November and attended by 200 people. Professor Ingrid Schoon, the Chair of Human Development and Social Policy at the Institute of Education, University College London, delivered the keynote address titled 'Navigating the transition to adulthood: the role of structure and agency'.

At the conference, Minister Zappone launched four Key Findings reports, examining the lives of 9-year-old children from Cohort '08. These reports focused on children and their families; health and development; school and learning; and socio-emotional development and relationships. These recent findings indicate that there were big improvements since 2013 in the ability of families to make ends meet. A positive picture of family relationships emerged, with most parents reporting a high level of closeness with their children. Grandparents were important figures in the family lives of most 9-year-olds: two-thirds of children saw a grandparent at least once a week. Children had a broadly positive attitude to school. They generally had healthy diets but had a relatively high consumption of some treat foods such as biscuits and cakes. However, only one-quarter of 9-year-olds reported reaching the recommended level of physical activity.

A workshop was held at the conference on the use of data to inform policy, with contributions from the ESRI, the DCYA and the National Disability Authority. In addition, ESRI researchers presented papers at the conference on a wide range of topics including decision-making about higher education, measuring cognitive ability at age 17, healthcare utilisation, cultural differences in behaviour during pregnancy, the relationship between computer usage and academic performance, socio-emotional well-being, adolescent psychotic experiences, the cost of childcare and tracking physical activity levels over time.

3.3 Communications and Transport

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Research examined the factors most likely to influence the location of a new firm outside the Dublin region. It found that areas with broadband are attractive to new firms if there is also a highly educated workforce there.
- Research examined the academic performance of children who owned a mobile phone from a young age. Children who owned a mobile phone at age 9 performed less well in standardised reading and maths tests at age 13.

The programme of research in communications is supported by the **Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment** and the **Commission for Communications Regulation**. This programme is currently addressing four broad research topics:

1. Quantifying the effects of broadband in schools and the effects of programmes intended to improve access of schools to broadband services;

2. Effects of wholesale broadband infrastructure on wider economic outcomes;
3. Modelling the market for broadband services;
4. Effects of regulation on aspects of market performance.

In collaboration with researchers in the Education area, research investigated the impact of digital technologies within and outside school on academic skills and socio-emotional development among children and young people. A first paper was finalised examining student views on the use of personal devices in school and their views on online safety. Two papers drawing on *Growing Up in Ireland* data were also completed. The first examines the extent to which early mobile phone ownership among children impacts on their academic development as they move into adolescence. The paper was presented at the 'European Consortium of Educational Research' conference in Italy in September and was accepted by *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*. The second paper considers how such phone ownership impacts on the socio-emotional development of children between the ages of 9 and 13 years.

At the start of 2018, a paper was published on the factors affecting consumer switching in Irish telecoms markets. The study found that a high proportion of telecoms consumers have been with their supplier for a long time and never consider switching. Consumer resistance to switching is broadly spread across society rather than focused among particular socioeconomic groups. Many will only consider switching if they experience 'bill shock' or expect a substantial cost saving. Another paper was published in the *Journal of Regional Science*. It found that the availability of broadband infrastructure in an area helps attract new businesses, but only in places where educational attainment is also high.

A paper about how broadband rollout affected the productivity of firms in Ireland's services and distribution sector was accepted by *Telecommunications Policy*. It shows that productivity gains from broadband were confined to two sectors: information and communication services and administrative and support service activities. Two new studies were completed during the year. One, titled *Distribution of benefits from choice in retail broadband services: who searches most?* uses data on broadband plan searches made on a commercial price comparison website, which can be linked to Census data on local socioeconomic characteristics. A second paper, using data from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, finds no evidence that broadband rollout affected firm-level employment during the period of the Great Recession and its immediate aftermath.

3.4 Education

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Children start primary school with different skills and capacities, with some children facing greater challenges. The largest skills gap, both academic and socio-emotional, is between children with disabilities or special educational needs and their peers.
- Research examining if special classes operate as a form of segregation or inclusion for students with special educational needs found that this depends on the type of leadership in the school, the type of special class, and the severity of needs of students in the class.

The ESRI Education research area covers all levels of the Irish educational system, including early childhood education, primary, second level, and further and higher education. Research in 2018 focused on the role and impact of digital technologies in the lives of children, the transition to primary education, the use of digital cameras in teacher education, the Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) programme, the Youthreach programme and changes to the Leaving Certificate grading scheme.

In collaboration with researchers in the Communications research area and as part of a programme funded by the **Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment**, research investigated the impact of digital technologies within and outside school on academic skills development among children and young people. Drawing on *Growing Up in Ireland* (GUI) data, one paper found that children who received mobile phones earlier fared less well in their academic development as they moved into adolescence. The education team also contributed an article on digital technologies and student learning to the annual Yearbook of Education.

A report based on analyses of GUI, for the **National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)**, shows that boys, children with special educational needs and children from disadvantaged families face greater challenges in starting primary school. The findings suggest that supporting teachers to build stronger relationships with all groups of children and to develop a positive classroom climate could help ease children's adjustment difficulties.

A study examining the early impact of the revised Leaving Certificate grading scheme was completed. It was overseen by the Transitions Reform Steering Group and funded by the **NCCA**. The study found that the changes led to an increase in uptake in higher-level subjects, but this increase was less pronounced in DEIS schools and smaller schools. In addition to this study, the team provided research support to the senior cycle review being conducted by the **NCCA**.

A review of the Youthreach programme, undertaken on behalf of **SOLAS**, was completed during 2018. Also funded by **SOLAS**, the evaluation of the PLC programme was published. This study indicates enhanced entry to employment and higher education among those who have taken part in the programme. However, it highlights potential ways of further improving the responsiveness of provision to labour market opportunities.

Funded by **Hibernia College**, researchers have also been examining how digital cameras can support student teachers during their school placement, undertaken as part of their teacher education. Education researchers continued to be involved in international networks, including Understanding Inequalities, funded by the UK-based **Economic and Social Research Council**, in addition to the **Directorate General for Education and Culture's** Network of Independent Experts in Education and Training and its Expert Group on Graduate Tracking.

3.5 Energy and Environment

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- An increase in the carbon tax of €5 per tonne of CO₂ would, on average, increase consumer prices by 0.13 per cent and producer prices by 0.08 per cent, and reduce emissions by only

1.2 per cent. The carbon tax would need to increase significantly to transition to a low-carbon economy and meet the EU emissions targets.

- Acceptance levels for wind farms and grid development projects increase most when local residents are compensated via a simple community benefit scheme and do not partake in ownership or risk sharing of the projects. People who prioritised environmental concerns were the most willing to accept infrastructure development in their community.

Research in this area is financed by multi-annual research programmes. Energy and climate research is funded by the **Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, ESB, Ervia, Eirgrid, SSE Ireland, Viridian, Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Science Foundation Ireland, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland** and the **Gas Innovation Group/Gas Networks Ireland**. An environment research programme is funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency** and the **Health Service Executive**, while the fisheries research programme is funded by **Inland Fisheries Ireland**. Collaborations are ongoing with UCD, TCD, UCC, NUIG, QUB, and universities in the UK, Germany, Finland, Portugal and the US. The research area co-hosted a workshop with UCD on risk in integrated energy systems in March, a public seminar with TCD on energy transitions in April, and a conference on energy policy with UCC in May.

The energy research programme encompasses four areas: market design and regulation; energy services; energy infrastructure; and the interface with society and the environment. Research findings in 2018 included:

- Variable electricity energy prices induce larger demand flexibility but variable capacity prices are more predictable from a supplier perspective.
- The additional rent tenants are willing to pay for better energy efficiency is sufficient to pay for the most common retrofit investments with a short payback period for landlords.
- Acceptance levels for energy infrastructure development are highest when local residents are compensated via community benefit schemes.

In November, the ESRI launched its new model to examine climate policy issues, the Ireland Economy, Energy and Environment (I3E). I3E is a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model describing the relationship between energy inputs and environmental impacts (focusing on emissions), production sectors, households and the government. Initial research examined sectoral and distributional impacts of increases in the carbon tax.

A focus of the environment research programme in 2018 was the interaction between health and the environment. Among the research findings are that coastal views are associated with lower rates of depression, and that urban residents in areas with intermediate amounts of green space have the lowest obesity rates. Complementary research found that visitor facilities within urban parks, rather than parks' physical attributes, have a greater influence on park visitation rates. Other research this year involved lab experiments, with one study finding that presenting a product's environmental attributes as a colour-coded scale, as opposed to text, resulted in consumers selecting more environmentally friendly products.

The fisheries research programme examined preferences for fish stock conservation practices. Sea bass anglers were generally in favour of stronger protective measures, whereas salmon anglers had strongly divergent views. Analysis of salmon anglers' logbook data identified the catch effectiveness associated with fishing methods, licence types and locations, which is practical information for fishery management decisions. During 2018, a monthly angler survey was carried out, eliciting information on fishing activity (target species, frequency, catch, angling-related expenditure). These data will facilitate future research.

3.6 Health and Quality of Life

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- GAA players can spend up to 31 hours per week on their senior inter-county commitments and compromise on other aspects of their lives to do so, according to a study examining how the demands of playing inter-county affect players' personal and professional lives, and their club involvement.
- Job stress among employees in Ireland doubled from 8 per cent in 2010 to 17 per cent in 2015. However, the level of job stress in Ireland was still below the average for ten Western European countries in 2015 (19 per cent).

Health research focused on the themes of: the further development of a projection model for healthcare demand and expenditure; alternative approaches to achieving universal healthcare; the impact of the supply of community and long-stay care outside Irish hospitals on hospital length of stay; costing post-stroke cognitive impairment; inequities in access to GP care; and the relationship between the environment and health. Quality of life research focused on job stress in the Irish workforce, occupational injury and illness within sectors, and participation in sports and physical activity.

Under a major programme of research funded by the **Department of Health**, the ESRI further developed the demand phase of the HIPPOCRATES projection model for healthcare demand and expenditure to include analysis of demand for specialist mental health and disability services. In the first phase of the development of the model to project expenditures, the ESRI analysed public hospital expenditures. Further new applications and developments of the model included: projections of demand for public and private hospital capacity; analysis of the shares of activity in public and private hospitals; and projections of demand for the Nursing Home Support Scheme.

A three-year research project funded by the **Health Research Board (HRB)**, which began in 2018, will examine potential costs, outcomes and challenges of alternative approaches to achieving universal healthcare. The focus of this project in its first year has been on defining the objectives of universal healthcare, establishing metrics for its achievement and examining potential barriers to universality in Ireland. A second **HRB** project on mortality in Ireland, using data from TILDA, also began in 2018. Three further research projects funded by the **HRB** continued in 2018, on costing post-stroke cognitive impairment, inequalities in access to GP services, and analysing need for and supply and utilisation of health services by area in Ireland, and the relationship between the supply of services outside hospitals to the use of services within hospitals.

The research programme on environmental economics, funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA), examined the association between green and blue spaces and health outcomes. It used geo-coded data on environmental features matched to health outcomes data from TILDA. A project on noise and health commenced in collaboration with UCD and funded by the **EPA**.

In November, a study of job stress was published with the **Health and Safety Authority**. It found that job stress increased significantly in Ireland between 2010 and 2015 and that emotionally demanding work, high levels of time pressure and exposure to bullying, harassment or other poor treatment were the strongest predictors of job stress. Sectoral specific studies on workplace injuries and illness were also published during 2018.

Research commissioned by the **Gaelic Athletic Association** and the **Gaelic Players Association** was published in September. It revealed the high time commitments of senior inter-county players and the implications these had for work-life balance.

A project continued on financial security in the older population, funded by the **Health Service Executive**. Research on the ageing workforce began as part of the research programme with the **Health and Safety Authority**.

3.7 Internationalisation and Competitiveness

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Half of imports used by Irish-owned firms are sourced in the UK. This reliance on UK imports could lead to high cost increases for Irish firms after Brexit.
- Research finds limited evidence for a negative link between the presence of foreign-owned firms and the productivity of domestic firms in the same industry or the same region. Positive productivity spillovers come from supply chain linkages between domestic firms investing in R&D and foreign affiliates of multinationals with headquarters based outside the EU.

ESRI research in this area focuses primarily on the structural and microeconomic factors and policies underlying competitiveness and economic growth in Ireland, and in other European countries, in the context of international economic integration. In 2018, research in this area addressed the following four themes:

Comparative performance of indigenous and multinational firms operating in Ireland

This study, funded by the **European Commission**, analysed and compared the performance of indigenous and multinational firms operating in Ireland with respect to productivity, investment in R&D and innovation, trade, and access to finance. Results suggested that enabling the integration of local and multinational firms in European and global value chains could be beneficial for expanding and diversifying the exports and imports of Irish-owned firms. The evidence provided by this study has been used to put forward policy guidelines for Ireland in the context of the European Semester in 2018.

Impact of Brexit on trade and foreign direct investment

Research undertaken with the **Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation** and **Enterprise Ireland** found that half of imports used by Irish-owned firms were sourced in the UK, indicating that Irish firms are very exposed to potential disruptions in the supply chain after Brexit. Additional analysis suggested that Irish services imports from the UK could decline by 33 per cent and exports by 45 per cent. Further research undertaken with the **Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland** found that access to the EU Single Market was an important factor for the attractiveness of the UK and other EU countries to foreign direct investment, particularly for investors from outside the EU. Results showed that Brexit would reduce the UK's attractiveness to FDI.

Cross-border trade

Research funded by **InterTradeIreland** examined the patterns of cross-border trade on the island of Ireland, focusing on the role of supply chain links, measured by the extent of trade in intermediate products and the contribution to overall trade of two-way traders (firms simultaneously importing and exporting). The study showed a high degree of supply chain integration across the border that could face disruption if Brexit increased costs of trading. Work was also undertaken on the participation of firms in exporting and the role of small firms in cross-border trade to assess in more detail the exposure of different types of firms across the island to Brexit.

The impact of the EU Single Market on trade, competition and productivity

This research funded by the **European Commission** found that compliance with the Single Market legislation has been associated with increased trade, enhanced competition and productivity gains in EU countries. Further results indicated that the quality of the Single Market legal framework was a source of comparative advantage and export specialisation in EU countries.

3.8 Labour Markets and Skills

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Non-permanent employment is not an extensive feature of employment in Ireland. Research found that by 2016 it had fallen back to pre-recession levels and now lies below the EU average.
- Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses have positive outcomes for students. Students who have completed a PLC course are 16 per cent more likely to be in employment and 27 per cent more likely to have progressed to higher education than those who left education after the Leaving Certificate.

During 2018, research was undertaken on a range of issues and a number of new publications were either released or finalised. The team launched research (funded by **SOLAS**) evaluating the PLC programme. Two reports (funded by the **Low Pay Commission**) were published examining (a) the impact of minimum wage changes on employment and hours and (b) the labour market transitions of minimum wage workers. Reports were also published on barriers to social inclusion (funded by **Pobal**), and contingent employment (funded by the **Workplace Relations Commission**).

Research finalised during the year includes a study of the impact of minimum wage changes to the distribution of income (funded by the **Low Pay Commission**); an evaluation of Intreo (funded by the **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection**); a study measuring the impacts of local development policies (funded by the **Department of Rural and Community Development** and managed by **Pobal**); and three book chapters investigating skills mismatch in low- and middle-income countries (funded by the **International Labour Organization**). Researchers also finalised studies on consumption smoothing in retirement and the gender pensions gap, which were funded by the **Pensions Authority** and the **Pensions Council** respectively. Work commenced on an assessment of regional and sector-specific impacts of minimum wage changes (funded by the **Low Pay Commission**). Researchers also continued to provide regular reports on Ireland's labour market progress to the European Commission's **European and Employment Policy Observatory** and a study examining the emigration of skilled labour in Ireland was published as part of this work.

The work on contingent, or non-permanent, employment sought to set an evidence base on both the level and evolution of contingent employment in Ireland. The research found that the incidence of contingent employment in Ireland ranged between 8 and 9 per cent of total employment between 1998 and 2005. It increased to over 10 per cent following the recession before falling back towards its pre-recession level in 2016. Similar patterns were observed throughout the EU. The incidence of contingent employment in Ireland was also found to have remained consistently below the EU average. When the study focused specifically on temporary employment, it found that this type of employment was associated with a 20 per cent pay penalty. However, temporary employees were found not to have lower levels of job satisfaction.

The research on barriers to social inclusion examined the individual and spatial characteristics of individuals more likely to experience social disadvantage including (a) belonging to a jobless household, (b) being a lone parent, (c) having a disability, (d) being homeless or affected by housing exclusion and (e) belonging to an ethnic minority. Those with low levels of educational attainment are more likely to face all five barriers. Individuals in urban areas were more likely than their rural equivalents to report experiencing all barriers except having a disability. This finding suggested that urban environments increase an individual's likelihood of experiencing barriers irrespective of the population density and deprivation level of an area.

3.9 Macroeconomics

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- A hard Brexit would increase the cost of living for all households in Ireland by 2 per cent to 3.1 per cent – an annual increase of €892 to €1,360 per household. Costs would rise the most for lower income households. These households spend a greater share of their expenditure on food products, many of which are imported from the UK.
- If the current pattern of regional growth in Ireland continues, it will lead to a further gap in prosperity between Dublin and the rest of the country. In Dublin, it will lead to additional housing demand and increased long-distance commuting.

The macroeconomic research area in the ESRI has a wide-ranging remit to examine major issues affecting the performance of the Irish economy. Regular assessments of economic developments and consumer and business sentiment and forecasts of key economic indicators are central components of this area.

In 2018, further contributions were made to the ongoing joint research programme with the **Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government**. This programme focuses on estimating housing demand, supply and affordability in order to draw policy implications. In June, a working paper examined housing affordability in Ireland by looking at the distribution of housing costs across households. The study identified key vulnerabilities among low-income households in the private rental sector that pay, on average, 40 per cent of their income on housing costs. The paper concludes that affordability challenges are a structural rather than a cyclical issue. The ESRI has continued producing a hedonic rent index for the Residential Tenancies Board, which incorporates details on rental properties across the country. This work enables the measurement of average rent price growth at a county and electoral area level.

A number of projects were undertaken as part of the joint research programme with the **Department of Finance** and the **Office of the Revenue Commissioners**. Researchers first examined how different carbon tax rates would impact both the economy and the level of carbon dioxide emissions. The research used a detailed matrix of the structure of the economy including productive sectors, households and the government in order to quantify economic transactions, energy flows and emissions. The study estimated how changes in the carbon tax would affect GDP and consumer and producer prices, in addition to estimates of associated reductions in emissions that could be achieved at each tax level.

Work under the same programme develops the capability of fiscal policy modelling by building a fiscal satellite to the COSMO macroeconomic model and providing robust estimates of fiscal multipliers by estimating and comparing different methodologies. Fiscal policy instruments can potentially have strong macroeconomic effects. Well-founded quantitative estimates of the size of their multiplier effects are therefore important for developing policy.

As part of the banking stream added to the **Department of Finance** and **Office of the Revenue Commissioners** research programme in 2017, researchers undertook a detailed analysis of the investment decisions of small and medium enterprises in Ireland. They investigated the extent to which investment levels were being constrained by financing availability. Also as part of this research programme, researchers carried out an assessment of the Irish mortgage market and the extent of arrears among mortgage holders. They developed a detailed model of the determinants of arrears, which can be used for future stress-testing scenarios.

The *Quarterly Economic Commentary* continued to convey the Institute's outlook for the Irish economy in 2018. While noting the substantial growth experienced over recent quarters, the *Commentary* has been primarily concerned with underlying trends in growth and potential exposure to external risk factors, such as Brexit. The Institute's model of the macroeconomy, COSMO, informed analyses of economic developments including the National Development Plan and various Brexit scenarios.

3.10 Migration, Integration and Demography

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Non-Irish nationals are matching Irish nationals on several key economic and social indicators, but some groups remain disadvantaged, according to the latest integration monitoring research. The employment rate was very low for African nationals. The consistent poverty rate was very high for non-EU nationals.
- The changeover to new asylum procedures and the housing crisis have contributed to significant increases in the length of time it takes asylum applicants to move through the asylum and reception systems.

Research in the area of Migration, Integration and Demography is conducted under a number of strands. The first relates to the ESRI being Ireland's National Contact Point for the European Migration Network (EMN) and related funding, which is provided by the **European Commission** and the **Department of Justice and Equality**.

In June, the EMN Ireland team published a study examining Ireland's response to recent trends in international protection applications. The study shows that new programmes were introduced in Ireland during the 'migration crisis' period (2014-2016) and that a new system for processing asylum applications was implemented from December 2016.

The study highlighted that the system for accommodating asylum applicants is under strain, in part because the housing crisis is preventing refugees and others from moving on. The research also noted steep increases in waiting times for first asylum application interviews. The report was launched at an event that also marked ten years since the legal establishment of the European Migration Network. The tenth anniversary was marked in Brussels with a high-level conference, organised in part by EMN Ireland. In December, EMN Ireland launched the study *Approaches to Unaccompanied Minors Following Status Determination*, at a conference with speakers drawn from the Department of Justice and Equality, TUSLA and other stakeholders. In addition to the topic reports, the EMN published the *Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2017: Ireland*, a review of asylum and migration policy developments.

The second strand of research in the area falls under the research programme on integration and equality, funded by the **Department of Justice and Equality**. The first programme output, the *Monitoring Report on Integration 2018*, considers immigrant integration in employment, education, social inclusion and active citizenship, with a special theme on Muslim integration using the 2016 Census. David Stanton, T.D., Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration, launched the report in November. The second programme output, now being finalised, investigates data needs for migrant integration from both administrative and survey sources, complementing the activities of a working group under the Migrant Integration Strategy. A third report, currently under review, examines residential patterns of immigrants in Ireland using geocoded data from the 2011 and 2016 Censuses. In May, researchers presented work on attitudes to diversity to a meeting of the Migrant Integration Policy Committee.

In other research, a chapter about immigrant student achievement and educational policy in Ireland was published in an international comparative book. A journal article estimates the demographic, labour market and welfare effects of 3.5 million displaced Syrians on the Turkish economy. Researchers also participated in an international COST network, funded by **COST Action** with support from the **Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union**. This network compiles surveys of immigrants and ethnic minorities in Europe and evaluates indicators of migrant integration.

3.11 Social Inclusion and Equality

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- There is a significant gap between the rate of persistent deprivation experienced by vulnerable adults and the rate experienced by other adults across 11 EU countries examined in a study. The gap in Ireland was the largest and increased the most over time.
- High childcare costs are linked to lower employment among mothers, with a 10 per cent increase in childcare costs leading to 30 minutes less paid employment per week for mothers.

Research on social inclusion and equality investigates factors influencing access to the material and other resources required to participate in economic and social life and the processes that lead to inequalities in opportunities and outcomes.

Four reports were published under the programme of research with the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission**. Findings included:

- Attitudes to diversity in the Irish-born population in the period 2002-2014 closely followed the economic cycle, becoming more negative during the recession. Positive social contact with minority groups was associated with more favourable attitudes.
- Discrimination in access to housing in Ireland particularly affects people with disabilities, lone mothers, young people and ethnic minority groups.
- People with disabilities continue to experience higher levels of discrimination compared to those without, and for almost half of them it has a serious impact on their lives.
- Black non-Irish jobseekers are five times as likely to experience discrimination seeking work as White Irish jobseekers.

Two further studies – a list experiment on attitudes to minorities and a study of care and unpaid work – will be published in 2019.

Research funded by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP)

published in January examined the trends in poverty dynamics for selected European countries.

The report found a significant gap between the rate of persistent deprivation experienced by vulnerable adults, including lone parents and adults with a disability, and the rate experienced by other adults. The study found that the deprivation gap in Ireland is large and increased over time.

Ongoing research for **DEASP** examines the association between social inclusion and access to services. It will be published in 2019.

An analysis of social housing in Ireland funded by the **Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government** finds evidence of a greater use of the private rented sector to source housing for low-income families, and that the quality of social and privately rented accommodation has improved since 2004.

In September, research was published as part of a research programme on community development and social inclusion funded by **Pobal**. The study used data from the *Growing Up in Ireland* infant cohort and found that high childcare costs in Ireland had a negative impact on mothers' subsequent paid working hours.

ESRI researchers contributed to several international initiatives in this research area, including a chapter on the future of work in *Rethinking Society for the 21st Century*, published in July as part of the **International Panel on Social Progress**. ESRI researchers were also awarded the Distinguished Article Award 2018 by the *Irish Journal of Sociology* for work on the recession and economic stress in Ireland.

3.12 Taxation, Welfare and Pensions

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Changes to the tax and benefit system between 2008 and 2018 led to greater income reductions for women than for men, according to research examining the gender impact of Irish budgetary policy.
- A study found that Ireland's long-run income growth has been evenly distributed. Ireland was once towards the high end of the inequality spectrum for an advanced country but is now close to the OECD average for income inequality.

This research area spans a variety of topics, with a focus on the distributional impact of tax-benefit policy. Research in this area was supported by funding from the **Departments of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Health, Children and Youth Affairs and Finance**, as well as through the grant-in-aid provided by the **Department of Public Expenditure and Reform**.

The **Parliamentary Budget Office** also funded work examining the gender impact of tax-benefit policies. This research found little differing effect of tax-benefit policy by gender among single people. However, within couples, the past decade of budgetary policy resulted in sharper reductions to women's disposable income compared to that of their spouse. This was particularly the case in households with children. Team members presented results from this research to the Oireachtas Committee on Budgetary Oversight. The ability to carry out gender impact analysis is now available to government users of the ESRI tax-benefit model.

Research launched at the annual 'Budget Perspectives' conference, which the team organised and contributed research to, examined how recent changes to lone-parent benefits impacted lone-parent incomes and work incentives. It found small reductions in lone-parent incomes as a result of

the changes. Other research launched at the conference looked at the long-run income distribution in Ireland. It showed that it has remained remarkably constant over time, particularly in comparison to a general worldwide trend of rising income inequality.

Other research outputs in the area of income distribution examined the implications of the Great Recession for income mobility in Ireland and the impact of minimum wages on the gender pay gap in Ireland and the UK. Research also examined the role of the tax-benefit system in stabilising inequality in Ireland and other EU countries throughout the economic crisis. Research was carried out in the area of childcare costs and subsidies and how such subsidies can affect work incentives and maternal labour supply. Work on healthcare entitlements included examining approaches to placing a value on Medical and GP Visit Cards and estimating the impact such entitlements have on the financial incentive to work. Childcare subsidies were found to strengthen the financial incentive to work while Medical and GP Visit Cards weaken it, as they are often withdrawn upon entering employment.

Regular analysis of the distributive impact of budgetary policy continued. Budget 2019 was found to have led to small losses for all income groups relative to growing wages. Analytical capability was expanded to be able to examine indirect as well as direct taxation measures after the completion of a collaborative project with the **Department of Finance**. This expansion of capability will be of use in the future, particularly in light of anticipated rises in carbon taxes.

The programme of research with the **Pensions Authority** examined issues associated with pensions and retirement in the older population in Ireland. A new programme with the **Pensions Council** commenced, examining gender differences in pensions cover in Ireland.

4. NATIONAL STUDY OF CHILDREN (*GROWING UP IN IRELAND*)

Growing Up in Ireland is the national longitudinal study of children in Ireland. It is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), with a contribution from The Atlantic Philanthropies. The research is conducted by a consortium of independent researchers at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin.

The study follows almost 20,000 children throughout Ireland as they grow up. The objective is to provide evidence to inform the development of effective policies and services for children, young people and families. In order to do this, the study monitors the physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development of children and identifies factors that help or hinder their well-being. Data collection focuses on four areas: health and physical development; socio-emotional development; cognitive and educational development; and (from 17 years of age) economic and civic participation.

Information is collected from children, their caregivers, principals and teachers by face-to-face interviews and postal questionnaires. *Growing Up in Ireland* emphasises direct participation in the study by children themselves from as early an age as possible, to ensure that it captures the voice of

the child – in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. From the age of three, children complete cognitive tests. As the children grow older, they record their views in detail, using age-appropriate methods and questionnaires.

There are two cohorts in the study:

- Cohort '98 (most of whom were born in 1998, formerly called the 'Child Cohort') consists of 8,500 children and their families first approached in 2007/08 when the study children were 9 years old. They were re-interviewed at ages 13, 17 and 20 (in 2011/12, 2015/16 and 2018/19).
- Cohort '08 (most of whom were born in 2008, formerly called the 'Infant Cohort') were recruited when the children were 9 months old in 2008/09. The families were re-interviewed when the Study Children were 3, 5 and 9 years old (in 2010/11, 2013 and 2017/2018). There was also a postal survey with the main caregiver in 2015/16 when the children were 7/8 years old. The DCYA is currently discussing with the ESRI the possibility of re-interviewing this cohort at age 13 in 2021.

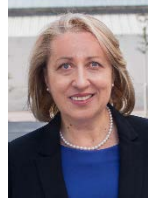
The availability of in-depth information on two cohorts of children born a decade apart, and covering the period from 2007 to the present, makes it possible to address important questions about the consequences of economic recession and recovery on outcomes for children and young people at different ages. Identifying the factors that promote resilience and protect children from the effects of adverse circumstances provides important insights for policy on children and families.

5. RESEARCH AREA COORDINATORS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

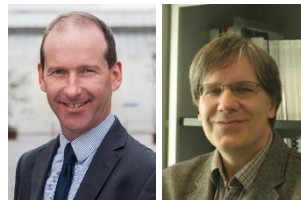
- **Macroeconomics** (Professor Kieran McQuinn and Professor Martina Lawless)



- Internationalisation and Competitiveness (Professor Iulia Siedschlag)



- **Energy and Environment** (Professor John Curtis and Professor Seán Lyons)



- Communications and Transport (Professor Seán Lyons)



- **Labour Markets and Skills** (Professor Seamus McGuinness)



- **Migration, Integration and Demography** (Professor Frances McGinnity and Dr Emma Quinn)



- **Education** (Professor Emer Smyth and Professor Selina McCoy)



- Taxation, Welfare and Pensions (Dr Claire Keane)



- **Social Inclusion and Equality** (Professor Frances McGinnity, Professor Dorothy Watson and Bertrand Maître)



- **Health and Quality of Life** (Dr Anne Nolan, Dr Maev-Ann Wren and Professor Helen Russell)



- **Children and Young People** (Professor Dorothy Watson, Professor Emer Smyth and Professor James Williams)



- Behavioural Economics (Dr Pete Lunn)



6. STAFF AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

Director	Aykut Mert Yakut	Emer Smyth (Head of Division)
Alan Barrett	Tong Zhu	Shane Timmons
Economic Analysis	Social Research	Brendan Walsh
Achim Ahrens	Samantha Arnold	John R. Walsh
Matthew Allen-Coghlan	Joanne Banks	Richard Whyte
Adele Bergin	Martina Barjakova	Maev-Ann Wren
William Brazil	Cameron Belton	
Philip Carthy	Maxime Bercholz	<i>Growing Up in Ireland</i>
John Curtis	Aoife Brick	Elizabeth Burke
Kelly De Bruin	Elaine Byrne	Stefan Engemann
Judith Delaney	Sheelah Connolly	Brigid Francis-Devine
Philip Economides	Merike Darmody	Hannah Frankis
Desta Fitiwi	Nora-Ann Donnelly	Caroline Goodwin
Abian Garcia Rodriguez	Karina Doorley	Anne Johnston
Ankita Gaur	Éamonn Fahey	Eoin Keogh
Gianluca Grilli	Aoife Fitzpatrick	Mary Kirwan
Elish Kelly	Laura Gormley	Eoin McNamara
Dana Kirchem	Sarah Groarke	Andrew Moore
Ilias Kostarakos	Hannah Julienne	Aoife Murphy
Martina Lawless	Claire Keane	Aisling Murray
Muireann Á. Lynch	Conor Keegan	Desmond O'Mahony
Seán Lyons	Ciarán Lavin	Caoimhe O'Reilly
Ciarán Mac Domhnaill	Pete Lunn	Marina Profir
Maria Martinez-Cillero	Bertrand Maître	Sarah Purcell
Seamus McGuinness	Selina McCoy	Amanda Quail
Kieran McQuinn (Head of Division)	Frances McGinnity	Owen Ryan
Conor O'Toole	Gretta Mohan	Fionnuala Waters
Paul Redmond	Sanna Nivakoski	Dorothy Watson (Head of Division)
Marianna Russo	Anne Nolan	
Iulia Siedschlag	Ivan Privalko	Corporate Resources
Rachel Slaymaker	Emma Quinn	Eleanor Bannerton
Petr Spodniak	Mark Regan	(Operations and Strategy Manager)
Manuel Tong Koecklin	Deirdre Robertson	Claire Buckley (HR Manager)
Miguel Angel Tovar	Barra Roantree	Sarah Burns
Petros Varthalitis	Helen Russell	Bernice Clancy
Adele Whelan	Bernadette Ryan	
Shiyu Yan	Anne Sheridan	

Liz Coyle
Cheryl Cullen
Lliana D'Emidio
Tara Featherstone
Maria Fitzgerald
Louise Gallagher
Elaine Goode
Dave Gorman

Adrienne Jinks
Rachel Joyce
Mark Magee
Ingrida Maguire
Francis McEvoy
Clare O'Neill
Charlie O'Regan (Head of
Finance)

Roxana Pedan
Ian Rice
Jackie Turner

7. ESRI COUNCIL – BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Padraig McManus, President and Chairperson

Padraig McManus became Chairperson of the Economic and Social Research Institute in January 2016. In 2017, he also chaired the Governance and Nominations sub-committee. Mr McManus has been a member of the ESRI Council since July 2012. Previously, he was Chief Executive and member of the Board of the ESB from July 2002 until 2012. He joined the ESB in 1973 and spent 15 years in the company's international businesses, later becoming Managing Director of ESB International and Commercial Director of ESB. He is a Global Counsellor of the Conference Board of the United States. He is Chair of the Curragh Racecourse Company.

Alan Barrett, Director

Alan Barrett first joined the ESRI in 1994 and became Director of the Institute in July 2015, at which point he joined the Council. During his time with the Institute he was seconded to the Department of Finance (2001-2003) and to The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) at Trinity College Dublin (2011-2013). He was a member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council from 2011 to 2015. He is a Research Fellow with IZA (Institute for the Study of Labor) in Bonn, Germany and is Co-editor of the *IZA Journal of European Labor Studies*. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland. He is also a member of the Climate Change Advisory Council.

John Buckley, former Comptroller and Auditor General

John Buckley joined the Council in February 2013 and chaired the Audit and Risk sub-committee in 2016. He is an accountant (ACCA) and a barrister. He has a degree in psychology and an MSc in strategic management. He previously served as Comptroller and Auditor General.

Pádraig Dalton, Director General, Central Statistics Office

Pádraig Dalton joined the Council in July 2012. He is a career statistician who joined the Central Statistics Office in November 1991, taking up the position of Director General in May 2012. He is a member of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), which provides professional guidance to the European Statistical System (ESS) for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. He is also Chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) High Level Group on the Modernisation of Official Statistics and is an ex-officio member of the National Statistics Board (NSB).

Emer Gilvarry, Partner, Mason Hayes & Curran

Emer Gilvarry joined the Council in February 2014. She is the chairperson of Mason Hayes & Curran and a partner in the dispute resolution team. Emer is experienced in a broad range of commercial and financial services litigation. Emer specialises in project management and investigatory work and acts as a legal advisor to corporates and boards on corporate safeguards and compliance procedures. Emer is a member of the advisory board at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and a member of the Ireland Funds Board. In 2014, Emer was ranked in the Financial Services 50 and the Global 100 by *Business & Finance*. Emer is also a qualified mediator.

John Martin, former Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

John Martin joined the Council in February 2015. He was Director for Employment, Labour and Social

Affairs at the OECD from 2000 to early 2013. From late 2013 to early 2016, he worked as a consultant for the German Bertelsmann Foundation on a major cross-country project on the political economy of reforming European labour markets. From 2005 to 2017, he was a member of the French Prime Minister's Employment Policy Council. He is a member of the National Statistics Board of Ireland. His other professional roles include the following: Policy Associate of the Leverhulme Centre for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy at the University of Nottingham; Research Fellow of the Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA) in Bonn; member of the Strategic Advisory Board for the Kiel Institute for the World Economy Centre for Globalisation; member of the strategic board of the Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire d'Évaluation des Politiques Publiques (LIEPP) at Sciences Po, Paris; and member of the Irish government's Labour Market Council. In 2013, he was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

David Moloney, Assistant Secretary, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

David Moloney joined the Council in November 2010. He is Assistant Secretary at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and Head of its labour market and enterprise division. His responsibilities include the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES)

Rónán Murphy, former Senior Partner, PwC and current board member, Davy, ICON PLC and Greencoat Renewables PLC

Rónán Murphy joined the Council in February 2017. He is a non-executive director of Davy, Chairperson of ICON PLC and Greencoat Renewables PLC. He is also Chairperson of Business in the Community Ireland. Rónán was previously Senior Partner of PwC Ireland, a position he was elected to in 2007 and was re-elected to for a further four-year term on 1 July 2011. Rónán joined PwC in 1980 and was admitted to the partnership in 1992. In 1995, Rónán joined the Firm's Leadership Team and held a number of operational leadership roles, prior to being appointed as Partner in Charge of the Firm's Assurance practice in 2003, a position he held for four years. Rónán was a member of the PwC EMEA Leadership Board from 2010 to 2015. Rónán completed a Bachelor of Commerce and Masters in Business Studies at University College Dublin before qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1982. Rónán is a founding member of the British Irish Chamber of Commerce.

Sean O'Driscoll, former Chairman and Chief Executive of the Glen Dimplex Group

Sean O'Driscoll joined the Council in February 2017. He is a Bachelor of Commerce Graduate from University College Cork (UCC) and a Chartered Accountant. On graduating from UCC in 1979, he joined KPMG and was elected a Partner in 1989. He joined Glen Dimplex as Group Financial Director in 1990, was appointed Deputy Chief Executive in 1994, Group Chief Executive Officer in 1998, and Chairman in 2011. He is a non-executive Director of, and Advisor to, Glen Dimplex. He is a member of the National Competitiveness Council of Ireland and the Trilateral Commission. He is a former non-executive Director of Allied Irish Banks. He is the recipient of an OBE and a Légion d'honneur Award.

Rowena Pecchenino, Professor of Economics, Maynooth University

Rowena Pecchenino joined the Council in February 2017. She is Professor of Economics at Maynooth University. After earning her PhD from the University of Wisconsin she joined the Department of Economics at Michigan State University, where she went on to be Professor and Department Chair.

At Maynooth University she has served as Head of the Department of Economics, Finance & Accounting and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. She has been a member of the Irish Research Council, the Department of Health and Children Expert Group on Resource Allocation and Financing in the Health Sector, and is currently the President of the Irish Economic Association. She has published and continues to conduct research in a number of distinct fields in economics, from defence economics to the conjunction of economics and theology. She has published widely in journals such as the *American Economic Review*, the *Economic Journal*, and the *Journal of Public Economics*.

Orlaigh Quinn,³ Secretary General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

Dr Orlaigh Quinn is Secretary General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation. Prior to this, she led on civil service and public sector reform in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. Other areas she has been responsible for include EU/International Affairs, HR and National Pensions Policy in the Department of Social Protection. She has also worked for the European Commission and several other Government Departments in Ireland. She serves as a board member on a wide range of organisations including Project Ireland 2040, the Labour Employer Economic Forum, the Public Service Leadership Board, National Skills Council, Canal District Innovation Group and Balance for Better Business. She is a former Visiting Research Fellow of Trinity College Dublin and holds a Masters in Public Management and a Doctorate in Governance from Queen's University Belfast. She is the author of two books on public policy topics.

Patrick Rabbitte, former Minister and former leader of the Labour Party, Chairperson of Tusla – Child and Family Agency

Patrick Rabbitte joined the Council in February 2017. He is a former Irish Labour Party politician who served as Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources from 2011 to 2014. He was Leader of the Labour Party from 2002 to 2007 and Minister of State for Commerce, Science and Technology from 1994 to 1997. He is Chairperson of Tusla – Child and Family Agency.

Sally Shortall, Professor, Duke of Northumberland Chair of Rural Economy, Newcastle University

Sally Shortall joined the Council in May 2015. She is the Duke of Northumberland Chair of Rural Economy, Newcastle University. She has served as an expert advisor to the UK Food Standard Agency, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the OECD. She was recently Principal Investigator on a report on women in agriculture in Scotland for the Scottish Government, who have set up a Task Force to consider implementation of the recommendations of this report. She is the President of the Executive Committee of the European Society for Rural Sociology. Her research interests include rural women, rural development theory and practice, community and stakeholder engagement in policy practice and how evidence is used to inform policy.

³ Joined Council in May 2018.

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