

ESRI ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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 6 provides a short biography of Council Members

The Council

MEMBERS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019



***Mr P. McManus,
President and Chairperson***



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

MR PADRAIG MCMANUS, President and Chairperson¹

PROFESSOR ALAN BARRETT, Director

MR JOHN BUCKLEY, former Comptroller and Auditor General²

MR PADRAIG DALTON, Director General, Central Statistics Office

MS EMER GILVARRY, Partner, Mason Hayes & Curran

MR JOHN MARTIN, former OECD Director

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, 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 Mr Padraig McManus stepped down as Chairperson in May 2020 and Mr Sean O’Driscoll was elected as the new Chairperson.

² Mr John Buckley’s Council term finished February 2019.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) aims to produce economic and social research on key issues facing Ireland and to communicate research results to inform public policymaking and civil society. 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. 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 2019, the first year of its 2019-2023 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 2019. 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 2019, Pdraig McManus continued his term as Chairperson. John Martin, Rowena Pecchenino and Rónán Murphy served on the Audit and Risk sub-committee; Emer Gilvarry, Sean O'Driscoll, Pat Rabbitte and Alan Barrett served on the Business and Operations sub-committee. Emer Gilvarry, Pdraig McManus and Alan Barrett served on the Nominations sub-committee.

John Buckley retired from the Council in 2019 having reached the end of his second three-year term. We would like to take this opportunity to thank John for his enormous contribution to the Council, including his chairing of the Audit and Risk sub-committee.

Research outputs in 2019

The research output of the Institute remained strong in 2019 and researchers continued to publish in a wide range of outlets. This included 52 articles in peer reviewed journals, 57 reports and nine book chapters, as well as five Research Notes and three Special Articles published with the Quarterly Economic Commentaries. In addition, 18 Research Bulletins were published in which journal article content was presented in a succinct, accessible manner. Work-in-progress was disseminated in 39 Working Papers.

While the research output is too broad to provide a comprehensive overview, we will point to a limited number of important outputs here. Further details are available on our website (www.esri.ie) and in our annual Review of Research.

The *Quarterly Economic Commentary* (QEC) continued to provide analysis of developments in the Irish economy as well as short-term forecasts for key economic indicators. A significant focus of the QEC in 2019 continued to be both the actual and potential impacts of Brexit on the Irish economy, including analysis using the ESRI's macroeconomic model, COSMO. Beyond Brexit, additional analysis over the year included a study of the possible effects of a sudden reduction in corporation tax receipts and how global uncertainty impacts Irish domestic investment.

Climate change received much attention in 2019, partly due to the protests by young people. The ESRI's research in this area contributed to informing the Government's Climate Action Plan. We also undertook analyses of the impacts of removing fossil fuel subsidies, the regional impacts of carbon taxation and distributional impacts of carbon tax revenue recycling.

Healthcare remained an issue of great concern to people in Ireland in 2019. The ESRI continued to develop its HIPPOCRATES projection model for healthcare demand and expenditure. Specifically, the model was expanded to encompass mental health and disability services. The HIPPOCRATES model was also utilised to produce projections of hospital bed capacity needs.

Our work on housing in 2019 focused on regional aspects of the housing market with research published on affordability and price sustainability on a county level basis. The ESRI continued to produce the quarterly rent index for the Residential Tenancies Board through 2019. This hedonic

price index is used by policymakers to determine which Local Electoral Areas are to be designated Rent Pressure Zones (RPZs).

Interest in the work of our Behavioural Research Unit (BRU) continued to grow in 2019. BRU is a team of multidisciplinary scientists who use controlled experiments to investigate decisions and behaviours. Researchers in the team completed two studies on food choice which illustrate both the nature and importance of this work. The first study showed that people order and eat substantially fewer calories when calories are printed on menus, provided the information is shown in the right format. The second study found that people pay more attention to portion size when it is displayed on packaging by a visual cue rather than written text.

Growing Up in Ireland (GUI)

In late 2018, a decision was taken jointly by the ESRI, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) that the *Growing Up in Ireland* study would be transferred to the CSO after 2022. This decision recognised that the study is now of such importance that it should become more embedded in the State's official data collection systems. On foot of this decision, discussions began in 2019 between the three agencies on how the transfer would be managed in such a way that the study's richness was maintained.

Work on the study itself continued in 2019. The cohort which was born in 1998 and first interviewed in 2007/08 when the children were aged nine were re-interviewed in 2019. Now aged 20, the data that were gathered on these young adults allowed for insights to be provided on the transition to adulthood and these insights were set out at the annual GUI conference in November.

People

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 it being 'the leading source of independent, high-quality socio-economic research in support of informed policy for a better Ireland'.

Protected Disclosures Act 2014

There were no protected disclosures made to the ESRI in 2019.

Padraig McManus
Chairperson

Alan Barrett
Director

2. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

The implementation of the Institute’s research strategy ensures that the Institute contributes evidence to inform policy debate and decision-making.³ 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 2019. Our goals of *research excellence and relevance*, *effective communications* and *policy impact* are being pursued through sets of strategic actions related to: research; funding; dissemination and communications; *Growing Up in Ireland*; 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 11 research areas, as well as the implementation of the strategic actions.

This section briefly sets out the progress made in 2019 in delivering on the actions designed to meet our goals.

2.1 Research

In addition to maintaining our long-established programmes of research in areas such as macroeconomics, energy and climate, we are always eager to expand the scope of our work. In 2019, we undertook more extensive work on Northern Ireland than had been the case for us in recent years. Two colleagues produced a report titled *The Political Economy of a Northern Ireland Border Poll*. As described by the researchers,

the objective of the research is to initiate an evidence-based approach to the question of a border poll and to provide an initial indication of the breadth of detail and analysis required for any debate to proceed in a meaningful manner.

We also undertook work for the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland and for InterTrade Ireland. We hope to maintain this renewed line of study on Northern Ireland.

2.2 Funding

In recent years, we have sought to expand our portfolio of multi-annual research programmes with government departments and agencies. These funding streams provide a greater degree of financial certainty when compared to one-off consultancy projects and thereby allow us to plan our work and resourcing in a more strategic way. In addition, the research programme model facilitates ongoing engagement with policymakers, which in turn helps to enhance the policy-relevance of our work. In 2019, we signed new agreements with the Department of Rural and Community Development and

³ A copy of the ESRI’s *Research Strategy 2019-2023* can be downloaded at <https://www.esri.ie/publications/esri-research-strategy-2019-2023>

the National Disability Authority. We also expanded the scope of our existing programme with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

2.3 Dissemination and communications

We experimented with new video features when releasing reports in 2019. In 2018, we began this process with the *Quarterly Economic Commentary* when we recorded the press briefing and posted the video on our website and to LinkedIn and Twitter. In 2019 we moved to posting short segments from the press briefings and purpose-made short videos in an interview style. We also produced a new type of video for a report on *Diverse Communities* in which we used stock imagery overlaid with text to explain the key findings in the report. Our social media presence increased through 2019, as evidenced through the rise in the number of followers (over 10,000 on Twitter at the time of writing).

2.4 Growing Up in Ireland (GUI)

A key goal for the Institute in relation to GUI has been the more intensive use of the enormously rich data which are collected through this survey with the support of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). In 2019, the DCYA signed a joint research agreement with the Institute which will see this goal achieved to a much greater degree in the coming years. While this research programme will aim to cover a wide range of issues, child poverty will be a core theme. Work using the GUI data was also commissioned by the Health Services Executive and the Arts Council in 2019 so the usage of the data has expanded.

2.5 Human resources

In the strategy, actions under human resources were broken up into five areas, one of which was wellbeing. Under this action, we have undertaken the following activities, amongst others: organised talks on emotional resilience for staff; marked National Workplace Wellbeing Day with events and activities including fresh fruit and a lunchtime walk; made Pilates available for staff onsite; and launched a Dignity at Work policy, supported by training for management and staff.

2.6 Business processes

Among our business processes which have been enhanced during 2019, we can include risk management, procurement processes and project management. We also continued to run data protection workshops for staff, thereby continuing our efforts to ensure that our staff are acutely conscious of the responsibilities with regard to data protection.

3. RESEARCH IN 2019

This section provides an overview of our research activities and findings for 2019, with brief summaries of research across the 11 research areas. Further details on the research and the researchers involved are available on the ESRI website.

3.1 Behavioural Economics

Research area coordinator: Pete Lunn

Others working in this area include: Deirdre Robertson, Shane Timmons, Cameron Belton, Hannah Julienne, Laura Gormley, Ciarán Lavin and Martina Barjaková.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- People order and eat fewer calories for lunch when the number of calories in each item on the menu is presented immediately after the price, at the same size and in the same font. This study was a pre-test of planned legislation on calorie posting.
- The importance people place on pollution depends not only on how concerned for the environment they are but also on how the idea of pollution is framed. People respond differently to descriptions that stress causing harm over descriptions that emphasise dirtying the environment.

The Behavioural Research Unit (BRU) is a team of multidisciplinary scientists who use controlled experiments to investigate decisions and behaviours. The BRU has recently broadened its focus beyond consumer behaviour to investigate health and environmental behaviours.

The BRU completed two studies on food choice, both of which were funded by the **Department of Health**. The first showed that people order and eat substantially fewer calories when calories are printed on menus, provided the information is shown in the right format. The second study found that people pay more attention to portion size when it is displayed on packaging by a visual cue rather than written text.

An international review was completed for **Sport Ireland** on behavioural interventions designed to increase physical activity in socially disadvantaged areas. Two randomised controlled trials were undertaken to test interventions designed to increase activity. Results will be published in 2020.

The first step in a Horizon2020 project funded by the **European Commission** was undertaken in collaboration with the **Geological Survey of Ireland**. The BRU investigated how people assess environmental risks associated with mining exploration.

An experiment funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency** showed that, in making decisions, how much weight people give to the effects of pollution depends on how the idea of pollution is framed, e.g. as harm to other people, or as damage to the purity of the environment.

An experiment funded by the **OECD** in collaboration with the Water Industry Commission for Scotland looked at households' priorities for investment in the industry. The study found strong variation in households' priorities for service improvements versus environmental benefits.

The BRU also completed an experiment on consumers' responses to personalised pricing and associated disclosures, also for the **OECD**. The experiment is to be repeated in Chile in 2020.

A statistical model was developed for the **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)** to identify farms most at risk of breaching EU Nitrates regulations. The model is being used to target

behavioural interventions designed to reduce emissions. The BRU started two other research programmes with **DAFM**: one to assist farmer behaviour with respect to preventing the spread of bovine tuberculosis; the other to study antibiotic use by farmers and vets.

Late 2019 saw the start of three new research programmes. A study designed to test for a link between understanding of climate change and willingness to take and support pro-climate action is being funded by **AIB**. A new research programme with the **Competition and Consumer Protection Commission** will design and test an intervention to increase saving. And the BRU is working with the **Health Insurance Authority** to investigate how consumers choose among complex health insurance products.

3.2 Competitiveness, Trade and FDI

Research area coordinator: Iulia Siedschlag

Others working in this area include: Mattia Di Ubaldo, Martina Lawless, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Stefano Meneto, Manuel Tong Koecklin and Weijie Yan

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- Full compliance with the Single Market – in the sense of a correct and timely transposition of the Single Market legislation into national law – could be a driver of productivity growth and welfare in the long term. These gains would come about through increased specialisation and greater intra-EU production linkages.
- Leaving the EU is likely to make the UK less attractive as a location to foreign direct investment. This effect will come about through slower economic growth and reduced access to the EU Single Market.

ESRI research in this area focuses primarily on structural and microeconomic factors and policies underlying competitiveness and economic growth in Ireland and other European countries in the context of international economic integration. In 2019 research in this area addressed the following themes: the impact of the EU Single Market on trade, competition and productivity, the impact of Brexit on foreign direct investment, cross-border trade, and environmental policy and enterprise competitiveness.

A study 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 research results indicated that the quality of the Single Market legal framework was a source of comparative advantage and export specialisation in EU countries. The study concluded that full compliance with the Single Market – in the sense of a correct and timely transposition of the Single Market legislation into national law – could be a driver of productivity growth and welfare in the long term. These gains would come about through increased specialisation and greater intra-EU production linkages.

Research funded by the **Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland** found that Brexit will reduce the attractiveness of the UK as a location to foreign direct investment. This effect will come

about through slower economic growth and reduced access to the EU Single Market. Further research indicated that Northern Ireland would become more attractive to foreign direct investment if it would remain in the EU Single Market for goods and services and the rest of the UK would leave the EU Single Market. Additional research estimated that the number of FDI-related new jobs in Northern Ireland over two years after the referendum was lower by 31 per cent than it would have been without the Brexit uncertainty.

Research funded by **InterTradeIreland** examined the shock absorption capacity of firms in Ireland and Northern Ireland. This was done by examining the distribution of firms by growth performance and profit margins of firms, in order to distinguish between those performing strongly and those that are most likely to be vulnerable to any negative shock to their demand or cost base. The findings of the report imply that small, largely locally orientated firms with some cross-border trade are likely to be most exposed to any changes in trade costs.

Environmental Protection Agency-funded research found that environmental regulations, in-house research and development activity, and acquisition of capital assets were major drivers of the propensity of Ireland's enterprises to introduce innovations with environmental benefits. Further research found that spending on environment protection was more likely in large enterprises, enterprises engaged in international markets, enterprises with a higher fuel consumption intensity and enterprises which were subject to the EU Emissions Trading System. Additional research found that spending on environment protection reduced the intensity of fuel consumption and increased output and labour productivity.

3.3 Education

Research area coordinators: Selina McCoy, Emer Smyth

Others working in this area include: Merike Darmody, Georgiana Mihuit.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- Young people with special educational needs (SEN) are more likely to experience a negative transition to second-level education. Students with general learning disabilities and intellectual disabilities are three times more likely to experience a poor transition compared to young people without SEN.
- A lack of clear policy guidance has meant that students' experience of technology at school varies widely, and public discourse has been device-focused, rather than content-focused.

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 2019 focused on the role and impact of digital technologies in the lives of children, how schools might respond in an era of digital learning, the use of digital cameras in teacher education, the impact of changes to the Leaving Certificate grading scheme, the Youthreach programme, research on the experiences of persons with disabilities and a number of projects for the European Commission.

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 and psycho-social wellbeing among children and young people. The education team, in collaboration with researchers from the University of Limerick, also examined how schools might respond in an era of digital learning. Funded by **Hibernia College**, researchers examined how digital cameras can support student teachers during their school placement, undertaken as part of their teacher education.

The number of Educate Together second-level schools has expanded rapidly. Given the scale of growth, and the distinct ethos and climate of Educate Together schools, new research funded by **Educate Together** is examining how students attending these schools experience diverse aspects of their school life.

A study examining the early impact of the revised Leaving Certificate grading scheme was published. 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. Also, for the **NCCA**, findings from the senior cycle review consultation showed a strong appetite among students, parents and teachers for changing senior cycle education.

A review of the Youthreach programme, undertaken on behalf of **SOLAS**, was published in 2019, showing the value of the programme in supporting entry into education, training and employment. Key findings from the evaluation were highlighted in the *Yearbook of Education 2019/2020*.

Work commenced on a new research programme with the **National Disability Authority** examining the experiences of persons with disabilities across a range of key policy areas, including education.

Education researchers continued to be involved in work for the European Commission, including the **Directorate General for Education and Culture's** Network of Independent Experts in Education and Training and its Expert Group on Graduate Tracking.

3.4 Energy, Environment and Infrastructure

Research area coordinators: Seán Lyons and John Curtis

Others working in this area include: Achim Ahrens, William Brazil, Philip Carthy, Kelly De Bruin, Desta Fitiwi, Ankita Gaur, Gianluca Grilli, Jason Harold, Dana Kirchem, Muireann Á. Lynch, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, Anne Nolan, Marianna Russo, Petr Spodniak, Miguel Tovar Reanos, Aykut Mert Yakut, Shiyu Yan and Tong Zhu.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- Fossil fuel subsidies, mostly excise exemptions, are six times the magnitude of carbon tax revenue. Abolition of these subsidies, excluding household fuel allowances, would have a modest economic impact but lead to substantial reduction in CO₂ emissions.

- Early mobile phone ownership among children is associated with better performance in reading and maths. Across both domains, children who already reported owning a phone by the age of nine fared less well in terms of their academic development at age 13 compared to those who got phones later than age nine.

Research in this area is funded through a number of multi-annual research programmes. Energy and climate research is funded by the **Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE), ESB, Ervia, Gas Networks Ireland, EirGrid, SSE Ireland, Viridian, Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.** Research related to the environment, including fisheries, is funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, and Inland Fisheries Ireland.** Research on electronic communications networks and services is funded by the **Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) and DCCAE.**

The energy research programme spans market design and regulation, energy services, energy infrastructure, and the interface with society and the environment. Research in 2019 found that renewable energy subsidies for wind power generation are beneficial not just to wind farm owners, but owners of other technologies such as ‘power-to-gas’.

The development of an LNG import facility or an underground gas storage facility would yield lower energy costs for consumers in the case of an LNG import facility, whereas development of gas storage capacity would enhance natural gas and power system flexibility. The European experience in biogas development has lessons for Irish policy ambitions to increase biogas/biomethane production, highlighting need for clear strategic vision for the sector, as well as supply chain risks surrounding secure and consistent quality feedstocks.

The ESRI’s Research Programme on Climate, Energy and the Economy focused on informing the government’s Climate Action Plan including analyses on impacts of removing fossil fuel subsidies, the regional impacts of carbon taxation, as well as distributional impacts of carbon tax revenue recycling.

The Environment Research Programme published research this year showing that that Ireland has experienced a substantial loss of non-urban land in recent decades. Furthermore, a significant share of urban land use has been extended to remote areas, thereby exacerbating sprawl. A wide-ranging EPA report was also published based on research under the programme *Research on Aspects of Ireland’s Environment, Consumer Behaviour and Health.* Behavioural studies underway in this programme include a field trial of measures to increase radon remediation in at-risk households and methods to improve communications of environmental information more generally.

A new three-year communications research programme was agreed with DCCAE and ComReg. In 2019, journal articles were published on the effects of broadband on productivity of service sector firms and on employment levels among firms generally. Another publication examined the relationship between early mobile phone ownership among children in Ireland and their academic performance.

A new research theme supporting river basin management planning was initiated in 2019 commencing with a review of methods and approaches to encourage pro-environmental behaviours. Fisheries research focused on quantifying the nature and economic impact of angling activity.

3.5 *Growing Up in Ireland*

Research area coordinators: Dorothy Watson and Emer Smyth

Others working in this area include: Aisling Murray, Desmond O’Mahony, Eoin McNamara, Caoimhe O’Reilly, Amanda Quail, Eoin Keogh, Aoife Murphy, Elizabeth Burke, Andrew Moore, Brigid Francis-Devine, Hannah Frankis, Caroline Goodwin, Fionnuala Waters, Marina Profir, Bernadette Ryan, Sarah Purcell, Mary Kirwan, Stefan Engemann, Anne Johnston and Owen Ryan.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- Relationships between parents and their five-year-olds are generally positive but some early inequalities in child outcomes were already detectable in health, learning and wellbeing. Children from the highest-income families were significantly more likely to be described as ‘very healthy’ than children in the bottom two income groups.
- Most 20-year-olds were still living at home; most were still engaged in education or training and family support was very important in funding post-school education and training.

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 wellbeing. As well as collecting data on family structure and background, information is collected on health and physical development; socio-emotional development; cognitive and educational development; and the choices and activities of children and young people themselves.

Information is collected from children, young people, their caregivers, principals and teachers by face-to-face interviews, self-complete questionnaires 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 2017/18). There was also a postal survey with the main caregiver in 2015/16 when the children were 7/8 years old. In 2019, an agreement was reached with the DCYA to extend the study for a further three years until 2022, during which data would be collected from the younger cohort at age 13.

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.

During 2019, home-based interviews were completed with almost 5,200 twenty-year-olds and their parents in the project's older Cohort '98. The response by the young people and their parents was very positive: questionnaires were completed by 66 per cent of the young people whose details were issued to interviewers and who were still eligible (i.e. living in Ireland).

A report launched by Minister Dr Katherine Zappone in February examined the circumstances of the younger Cohort '08 children at five years old. Most children were doing well at home and in school but some early inequalities in child outcomes were already detectable in health, learning and wellbeing.

Minister Zappone also launched a set of *Key Findings* on the lives of 20-year-olds at the 2019 Annual Conference in November, covering their main activity and living circumstances, physical health, socio-emotional and behavioural wellbeing, and their education, training and work experience. The results showed a very high rate of participation in post-school education and training but revealed inequalities in this respect by social background and by attainment in the Leaving Cert.

ESRI researchers presented papers on a wide range of topics at the annual conference, including clusters of health behaviour among young adults; health effects of inadequate home heating; impact of bullying on mathematical achievement at age 9; work-family conflict and outcomes for young children; school social mix and junior cycle performance; technology use among young children; and anti-social behaviour in Irish youth. A special session described the data collected using time-use diaries in *Growing Up in Ireland* and illustrated the use of these data to examine gender inequalities in the time children spent on housework, and the association between obesity and time spent on physical activity and sedentary behaviour.

Growing Up in Ireland is funded by the Irish government, with a contribution in Phase 2 from The Atlantic Philanthropies.

3.6 Health and Quality of Life

Research area coordinators: Anne Nolan, Helen Russell and Maev-Ann Wren

Others working in this area include: Aoife Brick, Sheelah Connolly, Nora Donnelly, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Conor Keegan, Elish Kelly, Pete Lunn, Bertrand Maître, Frances McGinnity, Greta Mohan, Aisling Murray, Sanna Nivakoski, Amanda Quail, Brendan Walsh, Dorothy Watson, Richard Whyte, Seán Lyons and Emer Smyth

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- Ireland may need an extra 3,200 public hospital beds by 2030, based on assumptions that investment in and improved access to primary and social care will help to reduce the level of need for additional public hospital beds. These findings suggest that the Irish Government's National Development Plan commitment to increase public acute bed capacity by 2,600 in the years to 2027 may not be sufficient to meet demand out to 2030.
- The geographic profile of health and social care supply across Ireland is inequitable and the supply of home and residential care services is associated with shorter length of stay in acute hospitals.

Health research focussed on a range of themes in the areas of health service reform and public health during 2019. In the ESRI Research Programme on Healthcare Reform, funded by the **Department of Health**, the ESRI's HIPPOCRATES projection model for healthcare demand and expenditure was expanded to encompass mental health and disability services. The HIPPOCRATES model was also utilised to produce projections of hospital bed capacity needs. Further research found that the expansion of free GP care to children under six years old did not reduce overall emergency department utilisation.

This year, a report on the cost implications of reforming dental services in was published, funded by the **Department of Health**

A three-year (2018-2020) project, funded by the **Health Research Board (HRB)**, continued to examine the potential cost, outcomes and challenges of alternative approaches to achieving universal healthcare. This year the project focused on the role of private health insurance (PHI) in Ireland and examined the relationship between PHI and the uptake of screening services, as well as the association between PHI and waiting times.

A major HRB-funded project ended with the publication of reports which showed that the geographic profile of health and social care supply across Ireland is inequitable and demonstrated that the supply of home and residential care services is associated with shorter length of stay in acute hospitals. HRB projects on mortality in Ireland and on costing post-stroke cognitive impairment continued during the year.

The research programme on environmental economics, funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, continued to investigate the links between the environment and health, and also began research on environmental citizen scientists. A project funded by the EPA **project**

NOISE-HEALTH began studying associations between urban transport noise and cognitive health among older people.

Older workers were the focus of a study completed as part of the programme of research with the **Health and Safety Authority**. The study profiled the ageing workforce and examined how working conditions influence health and the ability to work longer. Population ageing means retaining older workers is increasingly important. Almost one-in-five of those who left employment between the ages of 55 and 59 did so because of illness and disability. Older women were five times more likely than men to have left early for care reasons. Flexible working and part-time hours facilitate longer working as does protecting workers' health and safety across the life course.

Research funded by the **GAA** and the **Gaelic Players Association (GPA)** focused on sporting participation and player welfare. A project funded by the **Health Service Executive** on financial security in the older population finished in 2019 and, as part of this, a paper was published showing a negative association between widowhood duration and socio-economic status. A research project funded by the **Irish Cancer Society** started in November 2019. The project is examining the challenges and barriers that people diagnosed with cancer experience when working in paid employment.

3.7 Labour Markets and Skills

Research area coordinator: Seamus McGuinness

Others working in this area include: Adele Bergin, Merike Darmody, Judith Delaney, Claire Keane, Elish Kelly, Bertrand Maître, Selina McCoy, Paul Redmond, Helen Russell, Emer Smyth and Adele Whelan

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- Analysis of the 2016 minimum wage increase supports the view that increases in the minimum wage decrease levels of wage inequality in the labour market.
- As a result of the 2018 minimum wage increase, the number of hours worked by minimum wage workers fell in the Dublin and West regions and in the manufacturing sector nationally. However, the changes did not persist into the second half of 2018, suggesting any impacts were likely to have been temporary.

ESRI research on Labour Markets and Skills examines how workers are faring in the labour market and what skills workers need to meet the needs of an evolving economy. Research topics in 2019 include the gender pension gap, labour market activation processes and the impact of minimum wage changes. Researchers continued to provide regular reports on Ireland's labour market progress to the European Commission's European and Employment Policy Observatory (EEPO). A study examining skill imbalances in Ireland was completed as part of this work.

Two reports were funded by the **Low Pay Commission**. One examined the impact of minimum wage changes on the distribution of hourly wages and household incomes. The other analysed labour market transitions of changes to the minimum wage across regions and sectors.

Research funded by the **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection** evaluated the new Intreo service and sought to establish if the reforms undertaken to Ireland Public Employment Services, under Intreo, had resulted in any improvements in the labour market outcomes of jobseekers. The study found no consistent evidence that the Intreo reforms had any substantive impact on exits from unemployment to employment or education for jobseekers. Some modest improvements were observed. However, it was concluded that these are likely to have been driven by efficiency gains under Intreo, resulting in the early identification of invalid unemployment claims.

In a study on the gender pension gap, funded by the **Pensions Council**, the ESRI measured the gender pension gap in Ireland and explored causes for any observed differences. A total raw gender pension gap of 35 per cent was discerned. This was mostly attributable to differences in incomes from private and occupational pensions, which were much more prevalent among males. For occupational and private pensions, the raw gender differential was 43 per cent, of which 7 per cent can be attributed to differences in observable characteristics. Policy measures can address the gender pension gap and reduce the observed differences in occupational and private pension coverage across genders. Raising female employment levels and ensuring increased continuity in employment were indicated as effective policy options.

Other projects finalised during the year included a study of the income smoothing into retirement, funded by the **Pensions Authority**, and the impact of one parent family reforms, which was funded by the **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection**. A study measuring the impacts of local development policies was also released. This was funded by the **Department of Regional and Community Development** and managed by **Pobal**.

3.8 Macroeconomics

Research area coordinators: Martina Lawless and Kieran McQuinn

Others working in this area include: Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Adele Bergin, Kelly De Bruin, Abian Garcia Rodriguez, Elish Kelly, Ilias Kostarakos, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Conor O’Toole, Iulia Siedschlag, Rachel Slaymaker, Mattia Di Ubaldo, Petros Varathalitis, Dorothy Watson, Aykut Mert Yakut and Cathal Coffey

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- The introduction of rent pressure zones (RPZ) with limits on the rate of increase in rents was shown to have moderated the pace of rent inflation across the country.
- Brexit continued to generate uncertainty over the course of 2019 and work continued in the ESRI to estimate the impacts under different scenarios. Using the ESRI macroeconomic model COSMO, one study concluded that a disorderly No-Deal Brexit could reduce GDP by 5 per cent.

The macroeconomic research programme in the ESRI covers a wide range of issues that impact on the overall performance of the Irish economy. The programme assesses the domestic macroeconomic outlook on a regular basis while also conducting in-depth research on issues such as public finances, the housing market and drivers of economic growth.

The joint research programme with the **Department of Finance and the Revenue Commissioners** and the ESRI produced research on topics related to macroeconomic, taxation and banking issues. With the possibility of a No-Deal Brexit generating considerable concern for Irish policymakers throughout the year, a major assessment of its economic implications for Ireland was undertaken as part of the joint research programme. Using the ESRI macroeconomic model, COSMO, this work found that the long-run impact on real output in the Irish economy could be a reduction of 5 per cent in a disorderly No-Deal scenario. The eventual deal scenario was also examined and found to have a smaller, but still reasonably substantial, impact on Ireland reducing output by 2.6 per cent.

The joint research programme with the **Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government** entered its third year in 2019. The programme has latterly focused on regional aspects of the housing market with research published on affordability and price sustainability on a county level basis. The ESRI continued to produce the quarterly rent index for the Residential Tenancies Board through 2019. This hedonic price index is used by policymakers to determine which Local Electoral Areas are to be designated Rent Pressure Zones (RPZs). Research conducted for the RTB assessed the impact of RPZs on rent price inflation. This found that rent inflation has moderated in areas classified as RPZs but in many cases tenants still face rent increases above the regulation level.

Other work published this year as part of the programme included new estimates of fiscal multipliers, assessment of the impact of an increase in carbon tax and a profiling of households in mortgage arrears. The assessment of changes in the carbon tax found that incremental increases that reach €80 per tonne by 2030 will help reduce economy-wide emissions by approximately 15 per cent. However, it will lead to increased prices and a small reduction in GDP and household disposable income. Recycling the carbon tax revenue to decrease other taxes was found to reduce the negative impacts on households.

The *Quarterly Economic Commentary* (QEC) continues to provide analysis of recent economic developments in the Irish economy as well as short term forecasts for key economic indicators. A significant focus of the QEC in 2019 was on both the actual and potential impact of Brexit on the Irish economy. Beyond Brexit, additional analysis over the year included a study on the effect a sudden reduction in corporation tax receipts would have on the domestic economy and how global uncertainty impacts Irish domestic investment.

3.9 Migration, Integration and Demography

Research area coordinators: Frances McGinnity and Emma Quinn

Others working in this area include: Helen Russell, Éamonn Fahey, Samantha Arnold, Sarah Groarke, Frank McNamara, Ivan Privalko and Shannen Enright.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- Migrants are not concentrated in areas of disadvantage and are relatively evenly distributed across neighbourhoods in Ireland. Compared to the United States and other Western European nations, migrants in Ireland have a low level of residential segregation.

- There was an increase in integration-related activities and public funding available in recent years, notably Ireland’s first Migrant Integration Strategy. Like the majority of EU Member States, Ireland pursues a policy of mainstreaming service provision in the area of integration. Targeted initiatives meet specific needs, therefore service-providing departments and agencies play a key role.

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

One EMN Ireland study found that the number of non-EEA higher education students in Ireland grew by 45 per cent between 2013 and 2017. However, difficulties with immigration registration delays, employment and accommodation were identified as challenges. A study - *Policy and Practice Targeting the Labour Market Integration of Non-EU Nationals in Ireland*, was also published, in addition to reports on visa liberalisation agreements and beneficiaries of international protection. The *Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2018: Ireland* provided a review of asylum and migration policy developments. Like all EMN Ireland outputs, these studies fed into EU-wide analyses.

A second strand of research in the area falls under the research programme on Integration and Equality, funded by the **Department of Justice and Equality**. A report which mapped the availability of quantitative data on immigrant integration in Ireland from both survey and administrative sources found notable gaps. These included an absence of resident permit data on non-EEA children, national-level data on unaccompanied minors, as well as very limited data on both the growing second generation and ethnic minorities in Ireland.

Researchers also participated in an international COST network, funded by the **Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union**, which is compiling surveys of immigrants and ethnic minorities in Europe and evaluating indicators of migrant integration.

3.10 Social Inclusion and Equality

Research area coordinators: Bertrand Maître and Frances McGinnity

Others working in this area include: Dorothy Watson, Ivan Privalko, Helen Russell, Éamonn Fahey, Doireann O’Brien, Shannen Enright.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- Women in Ireland spend twice as much time on unpaid work, such as housework and caring, as men. People in Ireland record the third-highest amount of unpaid work time across Europe (EU28), which is likely to be linked to policies here.
- Ireland has the second-highest level of unmet need for home care across 11 EU countries. Households with unmet need for home care are twice as likely as those whose care needs

are met to experience material deprivation. In Ireland the main reason for unmet need for home care is a lack of such services.

ESRI research in this area 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. Two reports were published under the programme of research with **the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission**. One of these reports mapped data available on attitudes to equality and human rights issues in Ireland collected in European surveys over the period 2000 to 2018. A journal article published as part of this programme found that Irish attitudes towards Muslim immigrants were more negative than attitudes towards White immigrants, and that an international terrorist attack during fieldwork had a negative effect on attitudes to Muslim immigrants.

Within this programme of research, work commenced on the development of the Socio-Economic Rights Monitoring Framework (SERMF) with decent work and housing being the first two topics. This framework combines equality and human rights approaches and included a consultation event on decent work in September. Research from this programme of research also informed a presentation on Racial Discrimination in Ireland to the Royal College of Surgeons.

Two reports funded by the **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP)**, published in February and September, examined the association between social inclusion and access to childcare and home care for people with physical or mental ill-health conditions. The first report, focusing on Ireland, found high level of unmet childcare needs among lower-social class families, households in poverty, lone-parent families and families with an adult who has a disability. This was mostly due to unaffordability and constituted a barrier to mothers' labour market participation. The second report compared Ireland's access and unmet need to childcare and home care services with ten other European countries.

Work commenced on a new research programme with the **National Disability Authority**, examining the experiences of persons with disabilities across a range of key policy areas, including an analysis of services to support community living for persons with disabilities such as personal assistance.

ESRI researchers contributed to several international initiatives in this area, including participation on the advisory board of an LSE-based project funded by the **Nuffield Foundation**.

3.11 Taxation, Welfare and Pensions

Research area coordinator: Claire Keane

Others working in this area include: Karina Doorley, Barra Roantree, Dora Tuda, Mark Regan and Alyvia McTague

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

- In a major modelling development, a labour supply model was built to be used in conjunction with SWITCH, the ESRI tax and benefit model.

- Research provided new microeconomic and macroeconomic evidence relevant to the design and implementation of the auto-enrolment pension scheme.

This research area examines the design of the tax, welfare and pensions system, with a focus on the effect it has on redistribution and incentives to work. Much of this work uses SWITCH – the ESRI tax and benefit model – to simulate the impact of reforms on households. 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**.

In a major modelling development, a labour supply model was built to be used in conjunction with SWITCH. This model will allow the examination of behavioural responses to tax-benefit policy changes in future policy work. Lone mothers were found to be particularly responsive to income changes, an important new finding for Ireland where less than half of lone mothers are in paid work.

Research launched at the ESRI's annual Budget Perspectives conference found that a carbon tax rise would disproportionately affect lower-income households, although such households could be effectively compensated by using the revenues raised to increase certain welfare payments. Other research launched at the conference investigated the effect of indexing social welfare rates, along with tax credits and bands, in line with price or wage inflation.

The annual post-budget analysis showed that Budget 2020 would result in most households paying more tax as a result of freezes to the main tax credits and bands. However, households were also set to gain from higher spending on public services, investment and pay in 2020.

In the area of pensions, research provided both microeconomic and macroeconomic evidence relevant to the design and impact of the proposed pension auto-enrolment scheme. Research showed that demographic change in Europe, primarily population ageing, is likely to increase income inequality by 2030. Further research investigated the link between retirement and divorce.

Other research examined the impact of changes to the One Parent Family Payment on female employment. An investigation of how childcare costs, childcare subsidies, Medical and GP Visit Cards and the Housing Assistance Payment affect financial incentives to work was also carried out. Research highlighted how Medical Cards affect the health status and financial stress of those eligible for the scheme. The partial individualisation of the Irish income tax system in the early noughties was investigated and found to have substantially increased the employment rate of married women. Research also examined the effect of employee and employer social security contributions on labour cost and hours of work.

Building on gender budgeting work carried out in 2018, the ability of the tax-benefit system in a cross-section of European countries to cushion gender earnings inequality was also examined.

4. RESEARCH AREA COORDINATORS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

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



- **Competitiveness, Trade and FDI** (Professor Iulia Siedschlag)



- **Energy, Environment and Infrastructure** (Professor John Curtis and 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 and Bertrand Maître)



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



- **Growing Up in Ireland** (Professor Dorothy Watson and Professor Emer Smyth)



- **Behavioural Science** (Dr Pete Lunn)



5. STAFF AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

Director

Alan Barrett

Economic Analysis

Matthew Allen-Coghlan
Keelan Beirne
Adele Bergin
Cathal Coffey
John Curtis
Kelly De Bruin
Judith Delaney
Desta Fitiwi
Abian Garcia Rodriguez
Ankita Gaur
Gianluca Grilli
Elish Kelly
Dana Kirchem
Ilias Kostarakos
Martina Lawless
Muireann Á. Lynch
Seán Lyons
Ciarán Mac Domhnaill
Maria Martinez-Cillero
Seamus McGuinness
Kieran McQuinn (Head of Division)
Stefano Meneto
Eoin Monaghan
Conor O'Toole
Paul Redmond
Iulia Siedschlag
Rachel Slaymaker
Manuel Tong Koecklin
Miguel Tovar Reanos
Petros Varthalitis
Adele Whelan
Shiyu Yan
Weijie Yan
Aykut Mert Yakut
Tong Zhu

Social Research

Martina Barjaková
Cameron Belton
Aoife Brick
Elaine Byrne
Sheelah Connolly
Merike Darmody
Nora Donnelly
Karina Doorley
Sarah Groarke
Edward Henry
Hannah Julienne
Claire Keane
Conor Keegan
Ciarán Lavin
Pete Lunn
Bertrand Maître
Selina McCoy
Frances McGinnity
Alyvia McTague
Georgiana Mihut
Gretta Mohan
Anne Nolan
Ivan Privalko
Emma Quinn
Mark Regan
Deirdre Robertson
Barra Roantree
Helen Russell
Anne Sheridan
Emer Smyth (Head of Division)
Shane Timmons
Dora Tuda
Brendan Walsh
Maev-Ann Wren

Growing Up in Ireland

Elizabeth Burke
Shannen Enright
Hannah Frankis
Caroline Goodwin

Lisa Kelly

Eoin Keogh
Eoin McNamara
Aoife Murphy
Aisling Murray
Desmond O'Mahony
Caoimhe O'Reilly
Marina Profir
Amanda Quail
Bernadette Ryan
Fionnuala Waters
Dorothy Watson (Head of Division)

Corporate Resources

Eleanor Bannerton
(Operations and Strategy Manager)
Jamie Browne
Claire Buckley (HR Manager)
Sarah Burns
Paul Carroll
Bernice Clancy
Liz Coyle
Lliana D'Emidio
Maria Fitzgerald
Louise Gallagher
Elaine Goode
Dave Gorman
Adrienne Jinks
Rachel Joyce
Mark Magee
Francis McEvoy
Linda Murray
Clare O'Neill
Charlie O'Regan (Head of Finance)
Stephen Sammon
Livia Turzo
Kevin Worrall

6. ESRI COUNCIL – BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Padraig McManus, President and Chairperson⁴

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 Chairman of eir from 2012-2017, and 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. Mr McManus 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 Member of the Royal Irish Academy, a Research Fellow with IZA (Institute for Labor Economics) in Bonn, Germany and an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland. He is also a member (ex officio) of the Climate Change Advisory Council.

John Buckley, former Comptroller and Auditor General⁵

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. Ms Gilvarry is a member of the advisory board at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate

⁴Mr Padraig McManus stepped down as Chairperson in May 2020.

⁵ Mr John Buckley's Council term finished in February 2019.

Business School and a member of the Ireland Funds Board. In 2014, she was ranked in the Financial Services 50 and the Global 100 by *Business & Finance*. Ms Gilvarry 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 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 and Chair of the Labour Market Advisory Council. His other professional roles include the following: Adjunct Research Fellow, UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy; IZA Research Fellow; Policy Associate of the Leverhulme Centre for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy at the University of Nottingham. 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 and ICON PLC and Chair of Greencoat Renewables PLC. He is also Chairperson of Business in the Community Ireland. Mr Murphy 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 in July 2011. He joined PwC in 1980 and was admitted to the partnership in 1992. In 1995, he 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. Mr Murphy was a member of the PwC EMEA Leadership Board from 2010 to 2015. He completed a Bachelor of Commerce and Master's in Business Studies at University College Dublin before qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1982. He is a founding member of the British Irish Chamber of Commerce.

Sean O'Driscoll, former Chairman and Chief Executive of the Glen Dimplex Group⁶

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 from 2011-2016. He is a member of the Trilateral Commission. He is a former non-executive Director of Allied Irish Banks, former member of the National Competitiveness Council of Ireland and a number of other Government appointed groups. Mr O'Driscoll is the recipient of an OBE and a Légion d'honneur Award.

⁶ Mr Sean O'Driscoll was elected as Chairperson in May 2020

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 and 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, has just stepped down as President of the Irish Economic Association, and is Section Chair of Scholars at Risk Network – Ireland. She has published and continues to conduct research in a number of distinct fields in economics, from defence economics to Irish economic history 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, Secretary General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

As Secretary General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland, Dr Orlaigh Quinn advises Government and leads the Department and its 16 offices and agencies in promoting the creation of high-quality and sustainable full employment; by championing enterprise, supporting and incentivising a competitive and innovative research and enterprise base, negotiating international trade agreements and promoting fair and competitive employment and markets. A career civil servant, she has held leadership positions across several public bodies; spearheading reform of Ireland's public and civil service at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and as Head of Corporate and Head of National Pensions in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. She has also led on EU and International Affairs and served as an expert adviser on employment and social policy at the European Commission. 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. Ms Shortall served two terms as President of the European Society for Rural Sociology (2015-2019), and is currently the First Deputy Vice President of the International Rural Sociology Association. 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.

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