



# About the ESRI

The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) advances evidence-based policymaking that supports economic sustainability and social progress in Ireland. ESRI researchers apply the highest standards of academic excellence to challenges facing policymakers, focusing on 12 areas of critical importance to 21st century Ireland.

The Institute was founded in 1960 by a group of senior civil servants led by Dr T.K. Whitaker, who identified the need for independent and in-depth research analysis. Since then, the Institute has remained committed to independent research and its work is free of any expressed ideology or political position. The Institute publishes all research reaching the appropriate academic standard, irrespective of its findings or who funds the research.

The ESRI is a company limited by guarantee, answerable to its members and governed by a Council, comprising up to 14 representatives drawn from a cross-section of ESRI members from academia, civil services, state agencies, businesses and civil society. Funding for the ESRI comes from research programmes supported by government departments and agencies, public bodies, competitive research programmes, membership fees, and an annual grant-in-aid from the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

Further information is available at [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie).

# Contents

Introduction	4
The Year in Numbers	5
Events	6
Behavioural Science	10
Climate	15
Competitiveness, Trade, and Foreign Direct Investment	19
Education	23
Energy and Environment	29
Health and Quality of Life	33
Housing	38
Labour Market and Skills	43
Macroeconomics	48
Migration, Integration and Demography	53
Social Inclusion and Equality	57
Tax, Welfare and Pensions	61
External Commitments of Research Staff	65
Staff List as of 31 December 2025	73
Whitaker Patrons and Corporate Members as of 31 December 2025	75



## Introduction

It has been an honour to take up the role of ESRI Director in 2025. I do so with strong appreciation for the Institute's distinctive role in Irish public life: producing high-quality, independent research that underpins evidence-informed policymaking.

The ESRI's annual *Review of Research* provides an opportunity to reflect on the Institute's work as we pursue our vision of *informed policy for a better Ireland*. Looking back over the past year, I am particularly struck by the importance of institutions such as the ESRI in a context of growing uncertainty and the spread of mis- and disinformation. Against this backdrop, the Institute continues to provide robust evidence to inform policymaking and public debate, serving the citizens of Ireland by accurately identifying and measuring key economic and social processes. High-quality, methodologically sound research offers policymakers a solid foundation on which to build effective policy responses.

Ireland faced a number of significant challenges in 2025, shaped by an uncertain geopolitical environment and ongoing cost-of-living pressures. Housing affordability and access remained central social and economic challenges, with ESRI research examining the sustainability of housing markets, the impacts of rent control policies, trends in rental prices, and the investment required to improve energy efficiency in the rental sector.

Research on living standards and social inclusion pointed to persistent inequalities. Findings highlighted heightened economic vulnerability among lone-parent households and people with disabilities. Research on child poverty showed that one in five children in Ireland lives in a family below the poverty line when housing costs are accounted for. These findings underline the scale of the challenges facing many households.

At the same time, our *Quarterly Economic Commentary* showed that Ireland performed exceptionally well across many economic indicators during 2025. Economic growth, measured by gross national income, remained robust. Unemployment was low and the public finances were in surplus. While the first part of the year was marked by uncertainty arising from the Trump Administration's policies on tariffs, the global economy showed resilience. Nonetheless, the *Commentary* also highlighted ongoing vulnerabilities, particularly Ireland's exposure to any downturn in activity from multinational corporations through tax and employment channels.

Immigration continued to feature prominently in public and policy debate in Ireland. ESRI research on migration published in 2025 found that migrants had higher levels of education and employment, but were also more likely to experience poverty and face high housing costs. Additionally, research found that negative attitudes towards immigration were more common in disadvantaged communities, particularly where migrant numbers had increased recently.

Over the years, the Institute has specialised in developing statistical models that are estimated, validated and maintained to answer questions on economic and social processes. Through 2025, we continued to draw on our macroeconomic model (COSMO) and our tax-welfare model (SWITCH) in analysing a range of policy challenges. We also continued to develop our I3E model, which jointly models climate and economic variables, and our Hippocrates model of the healthcare system. These models are key pieces of Ireland's national research infrastructure.

Our research on all-island issues continued to gain momentum in 2025 with our joint research programme with the Shared Island Unit in the Department of the Taoiseach. We published research on child poverty on the island of Ireland and on economic trends in Ireland and Northern Ireland. We also launched the first ESRI annual survey of the two economies.

Before concluding, I would like to thank our funders, Whitaker Patrons, corporate members and research partners for their valuable support. I wish to acknowledge in particular the grant provided by the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation. Together, this support allows us to continue to pursue the goals of *informed policy for a better Ireland*.

*Martina Lawless*

**Professor Martina Lawless**  
Director, ESRI

# The year in numbers



## Oireachtas



## Research Programmes and Projects

30 New research programmes and projects

27 Completed research programmes and projects

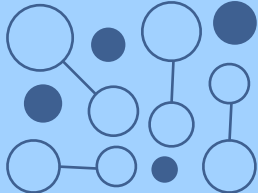
75 Ongoing research programmes and projects

## Media

 4,896 Media mentions

 31,300 LinkedIn followers

## Events

20 Conferences and Events 



The launch event for *Parenting in a digital era: A narrative review* at the ESRI. LTR: Prof Martina Lawless (ESRI), Aine Lynch (National Parents Council), Dr Celine Fox (ESRI), Prof Joyce O'Connor (BlockW), Dr Deirdre Robertson (ESRI), Niamh Hodnett (Coimisiún na Meán), Helen Dixon (former ComReg and Data Protection Commissioner), and Audrey Bryan (DCU).

# Events

Conferences and events enable the ESRI to connect with a broader audience and strengthen relationships with policymakers, funders, researchers, the media and civil society.

In 2025, most of our events focused on report launches and the dissemination of both ongoing and past research.

Recordings of select events are available on the [ESRI YouTube channel](#), and presentation slides can be accessed on [our website](#).



Prof Martina Lawless addressing ESRI Corporate Members at a Breakfast Briefing.

## January

- Annual report on migration and asylum 2023: Ireland
- Child poverty on the island of Ireland

## March

- Monitoring report on integration 2024
- The School Completion Programme revisited
- Within-area inequalities in mental health and economic productivity in England (Research Seminar, Luke Munford, University of Manchester)

## April

- ESRI/Department of the Taoiseach conference: Research on a shared island
- Understanding immigration: Labour markets, policy, and public perception, Geary lecture by Christian Dustmann, Professor of Economics, University College London
- The response of low-income households to the cost-of-living crisis in Ireland

## May

- Care to college: An exploratory study on care-experienced students' educational journeys

## June

- Parenting in a digital era: A narrative review
- Deprived children in Ireland: Characterising those who are deprived but not income-poor
- 13th MaREI Climate & Energy Research Seminar
- Budget Perspectives 2026

## August

- Experience of bullying and bullying behaviours among 13-year-olds

## September

- Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland

## October

- Post-Budget briefing

## November

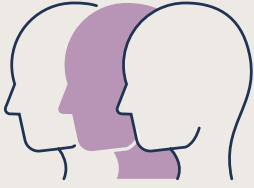
- Afterschool care for school-age children in Ireland
- Income and substitution effects of labour income taxation, Ola Vestad (Statistics Norway), ESRI Research Seminar

## December

- Future health and social care capacity requirements: Projections, challenges and policy pathways
- Shared Island Unit – ESRI launch of new annual report: Assessing economic trends in Ireland and Northern Ireland



Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD and Prof Alan Barrett at the launch of *Sharing the Island: Economic and social challenges and opportunities - Evidence from an ESRI research programme*



## Research Areas

# Behavioural Science

### Research Area Coordinator:

Pete Lunn

### Researchers working in this area in 2025:

Celine Fox, Maria Lee, Lucie Martin, Diarmaid O Ceallaigh, Deirdre Robertson, Adam Joachim Shier, Shane Timmons

## Research highlights and findings

- Study comparing farmers' views on climate change with those of the rural and urban public
- Review of evidence surrounding the impact of digital technology on young people and parenting
- Experimental test demonstrating how inducements increase gambling

The **Behavioural Research Unit (BRU)** uses controlled laboratory, online and field experiments to investigate decisions and behaviours across multiple policy areas. Most of the BRU's work centres on environmental, health and financial outcomes.

Work commissioned by the **European Climate Foundation**, published in April, challenged the perception that urban and rural dwellers, including farmers, differ in their views of climate change. All these groups are worried about climate change and willing to take action to counter it.

In June, the BRU published a review of international evidence on digital parenting, funded by the charity **Block W**. While digital technologies can offer benefits for children, some types of social media and gaming can harm wellbeing. Parents face digital risks themselves, including device overuse. The report notes an urgent need for better evidence on the link between social media and mental health and wellbeing.

In July, the BRU published an experimental test of inducements, such as free bets and moneyback guarantees, in the gambling market. The study, funded by the **Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland**, found that these offers entice people to bet more, with those at risk of problem gambling especially susceptible.

“While digital technologies can benefit children, some types of social media and gaming can harm wellbeing, and parents also face digital risks.”

### What are inducements?

Promotional offers used by gambling companies to encourage betting, such as free bets and money-back guarantees.



Bettors spent over **10% more** when inducements were offered.



**Half as many people** chose not to bet when inducements were offered.



**3x more likely** to choose a bad bet when inducements were not offered.



The inducements affected those at risk of problem gambling more than others.

Source: Effects of inducements on sports gambling and decision-errors: An experimental study, *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*

Also during 2025, the BRU published an experiment funded by the **Health Insurance Authority** showing how a new kind of online comparison helps people to choose more appropriate health insurance. A study for the **Department of the Taoiseach** revisited data collected over many months during the COVID-19 pandemic to identify factors that influenced people's behaviour, drawing lessons on how to organise a national collective response to any future emergency.

An experiment funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency** revealed that shoppers buy more sustainable clothing if it carries a scaled label evaluating the environmental impact. A large study supported by the **JP Morgan Chase Foundation** showed how low-income households had to make high-risk changes to their finances to cope with the cost-of-living crisis, including entering arrears, taking on more debt, or eating into savings. An experiment undertaken for the **National Screening Service** demonstrated that showing people a video of a medical scientist discussing uncertainty inherent in screening reduced blame and increased trust in screening.

Research programmes continued for the **Department of Health, National Transport Authority, National Immunisation Office and Department of Transport**, with the latest findings due to be published in 2026. New projects with the **Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland** and the **Competition and Consumer Protection Commission** are also expected to produce first results in 2026.



The launch of *Parenting in a digital era: A narrative review*, created in partnership with BlockW. LTR: Dr Deirdre Robertson (ESRI), Prof Joyce O'Connor (BlockW), Dr Celine Fox (ESRI), Prof Audrey Bryan (DCU), Helen Dixon (former ComReg and Data Protection Commissioner), Prof Martina Lawless (ESRI), Aine Lynch (National Parents Council) and Niamh Hodnett (Coimisiún na Meán).

## Journal Articles

[App-based physical activity intervention among women with prior hypertensive pregnancy disorder: A randomized clinical trial, \*JAMA Netw Open\*](#)

[Designing information materials to reduce blame and build trust in health screening: The roles of stereotype content and perceived control, \*Psychology & Health\*](#)

[Effects of inducements on sports gambling and decision-errors: An experimental study, \*Journal of Behavioral Addictions\*](#)

[Enhancing consumer satisfaction in complex choices through a sequential elimination approach, \*Journal of Consumer Affairs\*](#)

[Experiences of administrative burden in context: Exploring differences across countries, policy domains, and socio-demography, \*Public Administration\*](#)

[Fashion, fast or slow? Effects of binary and graded eco-labels on sustainable clothing purchases, \*Journal of Cleaner Production\*](#)

[Vulnerability to and acceptability of different types of sludge, \*Behavioural Public Policy\*](#)

[How do people with multimorbidity prioritise healthcare when faced with tighter financial constraints? A national survey with a choice experiment component, \*BMC Primary Care\*](#)

Dr Celine Fox presenting findings at the launch of *Parenting in a digital era: A narrative review*, created in partnership with BlockW.



Prof Pete Lunn featured on RTÉ's Prime Time, discussing distracted driving and its impacts.



## Reports

[Parenting in a digital era: A narrative review](#)

[Perceptions of climate change and policy among farmers and the public in Ireland](#)

[The response of low-income households to the cost-of-living crisis in Ireland](#)

## ESRI Research Bulletins

[Designing information materials to reduce blame and build trust in health screening: The roles of stereotype content and perceived control](#)

[Eco-labels shift consumers to more sustainable clothing choices](#)

[Effects of inducements on sports gambling and decision-errors: An experimental study](#)

## ESRI Working Papers

[Buying and selling houses in Ireland: Behavioural economic evidence for reform](#)

[Providing fairness and effectiveness reasoning for obesity policies increases policy support](#)

---

Read the full list online 



## Research Areas

# Climate

### Research Area Coordinator:

Kelly de Bruin

### Researchers working in this area in 2025:

Simachew Alemu, Daniel Cassidy, Çağaçan Değer, City Eldeep, Kirsten Everett, Niall Farrell, Clement Kweku Kyei, Samuel McArdle, Akhila Rajesh, Shane Timmons, Anita Vollmer, Aykut Mert Yakut

The climate research area provides macroeconomic evidence on the impacts of climate change policies on equality, firms, households, carbon dioxide and air pollutant emissions, energy and private transport mode choice.

In 2025, the climate team continued calibrating the new version of their Ireland Environment, Energy and Economy (I3E) model to include a detailed representation of renewable energy, hydrogen, agriculture, food, EV, and heat pump adoption. The team used this model to estimate Ireland's medium-term economic outlook and the energy emission projections provided to the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**.

This work is funded by research programmes with the **Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE), Department of Finance (DFIN), Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation (DPER), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)** and **Next Generation Energy Systems (NexSys)**.

## Research highlights and findings

- The baseline projection in the ESRI's economic outlook report, *Ireland's Medium-Term Economic Outlook: Risks and Opportunities*, forecasts average annual growth of 2.3 per cent in modified gross national income (GNI\*) to 2030 and 2.1 per cent between 2031 and 2035.
- The I3E-Transport model shows that a 2035 phase-out of internal combustion engine vehicles delivers substantial emissions reductions but falls short of sectoral emission reduction targets.
- Increases in the Irish carbon tax and the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) carbon price result in a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and non-CO<sub>2</sub> air pollutant emissions (NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and NMVOC).

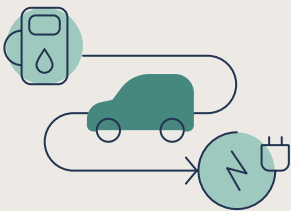


Dr Daniel Cassidy presenting his research on how carbon pricing and bans on internal combustion engine vehicles can drive transport decarbonisation in Ireland, at the annual Integrated Assessment Modelling Consortium (IAMC) conference in Brazil.

- An international comparison of consumption-based emissions fails to reveal systematic similarities between a selected sample of EU countries in terms of consumption-based emissions.
- An analysis of gross value added and greenhouse-gas emissions for Irish sectors shows a decoupling in the industry sector between 2024 quarter two and 2025 quarter two.

Despite recent international upheavals and substantial domestic challenges, the outlook for the economy appears relatively favourable in the absence of any unforeseen shocks. The report found that three potential external shocks (namely, a slowdown in global trade, a loss of Irish competitiveness internationally, and an exodus of multinational corporations from Ireland) had a negative effect on the Irish economy, but improving the productivity of indigenous firms could help weather that storm. This research was funded by the **Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation (DPER)** through the annual grant-in-aid and was published in December.

Research has shown that, under current trends, Irish transport emissions remain elevated through mid-century, with carbon taxation delivering only modest reductions. A comprehensive phase-out of internal combustion engine vehicles from 2035 achieves substantially larger – though still insufficient – emissions savings. This **NexSys**-funded research, published in December, develops the I3E-Transport model, a new passenger transport model for Ireland that integrates behavioural responses, vehicle technology choice, and macroeconomic interactions through linkages with the I3E model. The transport model is used to assess the impacts of transport decarbonisation policies on transport demand, vehicle stock composition, energy use and emissions.



A phase-out of petrol and diesel cars **by 2035** delivers substantial emission reductions — but still not enough to meet targets.

*Source: Evaluating transport decarbonisation policies under carbon budget constraints: The role of carbon pricing and ICE bans (ESRI Working Paper)*

Estimates show that climate policies (the Irish carbon tax and the EU ETS) are effective at reducing air pollutant emissions; however, the extent of this depends on the pollutant, the climate policy and the sector. This is because using fossil fuels emits both CO<sub>2</sub> and other air pollutants; thus, policies that reduce fossil-fuel usage can also reduce air pollutant emissions. The journal article was published in *The Economic and Social Review* in December, and the research was funded by the **Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment**.

An international comparison of consumption-based emissions reveals the diversity across a group of selected countries. Funded by the **EPA** and published as a working paper in June, the analysis points out that country-specific characteristics may underlie the observed diversity in emissions sources. This is reflected in trade-related emissions as well. Further study is being conducted to examine consumption-based emissions of Ireland through time.

Monitoring of energy use and greenhouse-gas emissions in Ireland in conjunction with economic performance is important to track the transition to a low-carbon economy. The climate team has introduced the monitoring of emissions and energy use into the *Quarterly Economic Commentary (QEC)*. The *QEC Winter 2025* presents gross value added, energy and emissions for different sectors and provides evidence for a decoupling in the industry sector, indicating efficiency gains. However, limited decoupling has occurred in the transport sector. This work was funded by the **Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment**.

## Other research outputs

In June, Kelly de Bruin presented to a closed session of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy concerning the economic and equality impacts of climate policies to ensure a low-carbon transition.

In 2025, the researchers in this area provided analytical support in drafting a technical note for the Department of Finance to inform its European-level response to the economic effects of a change in the kerosene tax on aeroplanes carrying fewer

Dr Clement Kweku Kyei presenting findings on the economic costs of heat stress on worker productivity in Ireland at the annual Integrated Assessment Modelling Consortium (IAMC) in Brazil.





Dr Daniel Cassidy during a discussion on transport in Ireland at the NexSys Away Day.

than a specified number of people. The researchers continue to engage with policymakers and other stakeholders through the Carbon Budgets Working Group of the Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC) and the Department of the Taoiseach climate modelling group. The I3E model's baseline was improved through the partnership with DCEE, DFIN and DPER.

## Journal Articles

[Co-benefits of the Irish carbon tax and the European Emissions Trading System on outdoor air pollution in Ireland, \*Economic and Social Review\*](#)

[Production and consumption-based emissions of Ireland, \*Economic and Social Review\*](#)

## ESRI Working Papers

[Evaluating transport decarbonisation policies under carbon budget constraints: The role of carbon pricing and ICE bans](#)

[Production- and consumption-based emissions: An international comparison](#)

---

Read the full list online 



# Competitiveness, Trade, and Foreign Direct Investment

## Research Area Coordinator:

Iulia Siedschlag

## Researchers working in this area in 2025:

Caoimhe Dempsey, Seraphim Dempsey, Juan Durán, Martina Lawless, Selina McCoy, Gretta Mohan

“Firm-level productivity gains from using AI in Ireland vary greatly by business purpose and technology, with large and persistent gains for firms using AI in marketing, business administration, ICT security, and firms using AI technologies that automate workflows or assist in decision-making”

## Research highlights and findings

ESRI research in this area focuses primarily on microeconomic factors and structural policies underlying competitiveness and knowledge-based economic growth in Ireland and other European countries in the context of international economic integration. In 2025, researchers addressed the following overarching themes: foreign direct investment, international trade, technological change, innovation and productivity.

Research on foreign direct investment published in August, part of the **ESSPIN** project funded from the **European Union’s Horizon Europe Programme**, found that, over the period 2012-2021, the presence of large multinational firms with dominant market shares (international ‘superstar’ firms) contributed substantially, over and above other factors, to increased wage inequality between firms across European regions. Researchers suggested that policy measures aimed at enhancing spillovers from highly innovative and productive multinational firms to domestic firms could foster productivity and wages in domestic firms and thus help to achieve more equal wage distribution. Related research funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency** found that technology spillovers from foreign affiliates in Ireland could enhance the green innovation performance of indigenous firms. Further research results indicated that local firms engaged in R&D activities benefited from such spillovers.

Research published in May, as part of the **EFFect project** funded from the **European Union’s Horizon Europe Programme**, examined the effectiveness of investment in employees’ training on productivity growth in EU countries. The impact of intangible capital accumulation on labour productivity growth was found to be stronger in more training-intensive industries. Research published in October put forward a novel measure of quality-adjusted human capital at industry level across European



### Superstar Firms and Wage Inequality (2012–2021)

Research on foreign direct investment shows that large multinational firms with dominant market shares played a substantial role in increasing wage inequality between firms across European regions. The findings point to potential gains from policies that enhance spillovers to domestic firms.

*Source: Multinational enterprises and between-firm wage inequality across European regions, The World Economy*

countries accounting for the quantity and quality of education. Using this measure, research results indicated a positive and statistically significant link with labour productivity growth in goods-producing industries. Research published in December found that firm-level productivity gains from using AI across firms in Ireland varied greatly depending on specific business purpose and AI technology, with large and persistent gains for firms using AI for marketing, business administration and ICT security, and firms using AI technologies that automate workflows or assist in decision-making, such as robotic process automation.

Research published in September on firm productivity distribution, funded by the **Department of Finance**, found that new start-up firms were initially less productive than incumbents. This highlights the challenges facing young firms in their start-up stages, and that policies aiming to boost firm entry may have a lagged effect on productivity. Research published in March on the structure, performance and challenges of the domestic side of the economy found that firms in domestically dominated sectors have been growing steadily but invest and innovate less than firms in the multinational sector and comparator countries. This research highlighted that productivity gaps and potential crowding-out remain issues of policy concern.

Research funded by the **Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)** and the **Department of Environment, Climate and Communications** examined the relationship between firms' access to ultra-fast broadband and productivity between firms, within and across regions in Ireland. Results indicated that, on average across all firms, access to ultra-fast broadband was associated with productivity gains. However, the most productive firms benefited more than other firms, contributing to the widening of intra-regional productivity gaps. This evidence suggested the need for complementary targeted policies such as training programmes and access to innovation networks aimed at strengthening the absorptive capacity of less productive firms to ensure that benefits from digitalisation are more evenly distributed. Another research strand examined the link between firms' digitalisation and the prevalence of ICT-related security incidents across firms in Ireland.

A new research project funded by the **Department for the Economy Northern Ireland**, started in September 2025, is examining the potential effects of changes in US trade policy on Northern Ireland's international trade. The analysis uses a modern multi-country, multi-sector Quantitative International Trade Model, accounting for trade in final goods as well as intermediate inputs and international input-output linkages. This modelling framework captures both the direct effects of tariff changes on trade flows and second-round effects of trade policy changes that propagate through complex inter-country inter-sectoral linkages. Results will be published in 2026.

## Journal Articles

[Multinational enterprises and between-firm wage inequality across European regions, \*The World Economy\*](#)

[Spatial equilibrium and the regional effects of trade liberalization: Evidence from Mexico, \*Economía LACEA Journal\*](#)

[Structural change and gender inequality: Trade, industry shifts, and regional labor markets in Mexico, \*Journal of Regional Science\*](#)

Prof Iulia Siedschlag presenting research on the effects of investment in training of employees on productivity growth in the European Union at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)-Luiss Business School Global Intangible Investment Conference.





Members of the Competitiveness, Trade and FDI team outside the ESRI. LTR: Dr Juan Duran Vanegas, Prof Iulia Siedschlag, Dr Gretta Mohan and Dr Seraphim Dempsey.


## ESRI Working Papers

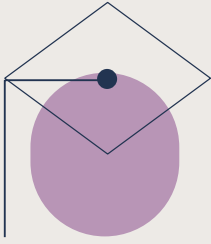
[An industry-level measure of quality-adjusted human capital in the European Union](#)

[The effects of investment in education and training on productivity growth in the European Union](#)

[The impact of AI exposure on labour market outcomes and well-being: Evidence from Australia](#)

---

Read the full list online 



## Research Areas

# Education

**Research Area Coordinators:**  
Selina McCoy and Emer Smyth

**Researchers working in this area in 2025:**

Merike Darmody, Anne Devlin, Caoimhe Dempsey, Séamus McGuinness, Gretta Mohan, Anna Moya Ponce, Diane Sheehy, Iulia Siedschlag, Juan Duran Vanegas, Adele Whelan

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 2025 focused on educational disadvantage and post-school pathways among young adults with special educational needs. The work spanned cross-national research and studies focusing on education in Ireland.

## Research highlights and findings

**New research shows how children’s academic self-concepts, parent expectations, and teacher-student relationship quality shape later educational attainment.**

Research as part of **Horizon Europe**, published in September, draws on *Growing Up in Ireland* data to examine why children from economically vulnerable families are persistently less likely to progress to third-level education. These children finish primary school with lower academic self-concepts and these drop more steeply in secondary school compared with their peers. Parental educational expectations typically rise during this transition, but not for parents of low socio-economic status. Both patterns predict attainment seven years later. In fact, parents’ expectations during this period are especially influential for children of low socio-economic status. Positive teacher-student relationships in early secondary school are critical. Even when parents of low socio-economic status do hold high expectations, their children also need positive teacher relationships to reach the same attainment levels (a third-level degree) as their peers of high socio-economic status.

**A review of the School Completion Programme shows its value as a vital support for vulnerable children and young people.**

Research for **Tusla Education Support Services (TESS)**, published in March, showed that the strength of the programme lies in the skills of School Completion Programme staff in developing strong

“Children from economically vulnerable families finish primary school with lower academic self-concepts, which decline more steeply in secondary school compared to their peers.”

“The strength of the School Completion Programme lies in the skills of its staff in developing strong and supportive relationships with children and young people.”

and supportive relationships with children and young people, thus enhancing their school engagement. Findings point to the scale of socio-economic disadvantage evident in participating schools, with many staff reporting challenges in reaching enough students, given the level of local need.

**New research shows the importance of appropriate, high-quality post-school pathways for disabled young people.**

Research for the **National Council for Special Education (NCSE)**, published in March, tracked the experiences of young people with special educational needs/disabilities from second-level education through the transition into later pathways. Transition preparation at school was generally perceived positively. However, the findings suggest that schools are doing less well in preparing students for adult life, independent living and career decisions. While many special-school leavers successfully progressed to education/training programmes or services, others experienced delayed or disrupted transitions.



Dr Selina McCoy, Michael Moynihan TD, Keyu Ye, Dr Eamonn Carroll at the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) Research Conference.



## Bullying in Childhood and Adolescence



Being picked on at age 9 is linked to poorer wellbeing and higher depression at age 13.



Experiencing bullying is more likely among 13-year-olds with a disability, those who are LGBTQ, and those who are overweight.



Girls are less likely to be hit, but more likely to experience name-calling, exclusion and online bullying.

Source: *Experience of bullying and bullying behaviours in childhood and adolescence (ESRI)*

data to document the scale of non-attendance and using *Growing Up in Ireland* data to look at the drivers of absence and its long-term consequences. Work also began with the ESRI labour market and skills team on an evaluation and monitoring framework for the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) programme for the **Department of Education and Youth**.

In July, research with **Empowering People in Care (EPIC)** highlighted the role of multiple care placements and school changes as barriers to educational engagement for care-experience young people. Research with the **Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE)**, published in August, showed that a significant proportion of young people experience bullying-type behaviour that causes them to feel upset or anger, but do not define it as bullying and so are less likely to tell an adult about it.

The first report of the Teachers' Professional Journeys longitudinal study, funded by the **Department of Education and Youth and the Teaching Council**, was published in December.

A number of journal articles covered a diverse range of topics, including digital policies in schools, ICT skills development, student wellbeing, student-teacher relationships, and science subject take-up.

## Journal Articles

[Changes in children's well-being and mental health across the early school years: Links with academic and social competence, \*Developmental Psychology\*](#)

[Future proofing schools: Bringing school policies into the AI era, \*Economic and Social Review\*](#)

[Navigating youth, smartphones, and policy: a balanced perspective on digital wellbeing, \*Pediatric Research\*](#)

[The first decade of teachers' professional lives: a scoping review of research in the Republic of Ireland, \*Irish Educational Studies\*](#)

[The role of academic self-concepts, parent expectations and teacher-student interactions in socio-economic gaps in educational attainment, \*British Journal of Educational Psychology\*](#)



Prof Emer Smyth (ESRI) and Dr Colman Noctor (South East Technological University) on Ireland AM discussing an ESRI report *Experience of bullying and bullying behaviours in childhood and adolescence*.

[Understanding the role of school experiences in the wellbeing of girls, SEN and low SES students: A self-determination theory approach, \*Studies in Educational Evaluation\*](#)

[Who says school provides computer skills? Early ICT exposure and later skill perceptions – evidence from school and home environments in Ireland, \*Technology, Pedagogy and Education\*](#)

[Parental school choice in post-secular Ireland: insights from Irish primary schools, \*Irish Educational Studies\*](#)

[Who chooses science? A longitudinal investigation of the role of primary and secondary school factors in shaping science enrolments in Ireland, \*Oxford Review of Education\*](#)

## Reports

[Afterschool care for school-aged children in Ireland](#)

[Care to college: An exploratory study on care-experienced students' educational journeys](#)

[Paths, tracks, gaps and cliffs: the post-school transitions of students with special educational needs](#)

[Peer counselling on modernising the Polish curriculum to enhance key competences](#)

[Teachers' professional journeys during the first decade longitudinal study: reviews of literature](#)

[The School Completion Programme revisited](#)

## Chapters in Books and Reports

[Disabled students' school and post-school careers, chapter in Ireland's Education Yearbook](#)

[Equality, diversity, and inclusion: The journey ahead, chapter in Contemporary Issues in the Psychology of Education](#)

[Second-level student experiences in a time of change, chapter in Ireland's Education Yearbook](#)

[Social, gender and ethnic inequalities in education and school-to-work transitions, Handbook of Education and Work](#)

## ESRI Research Bulletins

[Future proofing schools: Bringing school policies into the AI era](#)

[How are children's academic self-concepts, their parents' expectations, and their relationships with teachers linked to later educational attainment?](#)

[School and home influences on youth ICT skills development in Ireland](#)

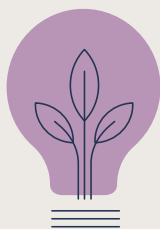
[Who chooses science? A longitudinal investigation of the role of primary and secondary school factors in shaping science enrolments in Ireland](#)

## ESRI Working Papers

[Digital skills and the impact of digital technologies in secondary education in the era of artificial intelligence](#)

## Other Papers

[The role of school experiences in the wellbeing of girls, special educational needs and low SES students, EFFEct Policy Brief](#)



## Research Areas

# Energy and the Environment

### Research Area Coordinators:

Niall Farrell, Muireann Lynch, Anne Nolan

### Researchers working in this area in 2025:

City Ahmed, Marta Alvaro-Taus, Conor Banahan, Philip Carthy, John Curtis, Kelly de Bruin, Çağaçan Değer, Andres Estevez, Kirsten Everett, Patricia Finlay, Clement Kewku Kyei, Samuel McArdle, Gretta Mohan, Rafael Nunes, Richard Otroshchenko, Efthymios Smyrniotis, Miguel Tovar Reaños, Shiwani Varal, Anita Vollmer, Brendan Wade, Aykut Mert Yakut

Core funding for energy research at the ESRI comes from the ESRI's Energy Policy Research Centre, whose members comprise the **Commission for Regulation of Utilities, the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment (DCEE), EirGrid, Energia, ESB, Gas Networks Ireland, Bord Gáis** and **SSE Ireland**.

Additional projects are funded by the **European Commission (EU Horizon), Taighde Éireann/ Research Ireland (formerly, Science Foundation Ireland)** and the **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)**. Research related to the environment is funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, while research on electronic communications networks and services is funded by **DCEE** and the **Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)**. Research in the area spans topics such as residential energy efficiency, energy poverty, electricity market design, and the interface between the environment and human health.

During 2025, work continued on phase V of the EPA research programme. The current programme spans 11 projects, covering issues such as the economics of land-use change, health and climate change, industrial policy and behavioural science. The final report from the phase IV EPA research programme was published in June, and researchers presented findings of EPA-funded research at the Irish Economics Association Annual Conference, the EPA/ESRI/HSE Health and Wellbeing Conference and the EPA National Air Event.

## Research highlights and findings

“The EPA research programme spans 11 projects, covering the economics of land-use change, health and climate change, industrial policy and behavioural science.”

- A study published in May found that the current structure of Irish network tariffs is inefficient. The implications of a cost-reflective reform were investigated; it was concluded that, while such reform would improve consumer welfare in aggregate, negative distributional consequences might result. The research found that this is not a good reason to avoid reform; these distributional consequences should be addressed as part of social policy measures. The study's timely insights can inform ongoing tariff reviews by the Commission for



Inequalities exist in exposure to nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) air pollution, with the highest concentrations in areas with greater shares of non-white populations and renters.

*Source: Investigating inequalities in NO<sub>2</sub> air pollution concentrations on novel indicators relating to small spatial areas. International Journal for Equity in Health.*

Regulation of Utilities (CRU). This paper was funded by the **ESRI Energy Policy Research Centre (EPRC)**.

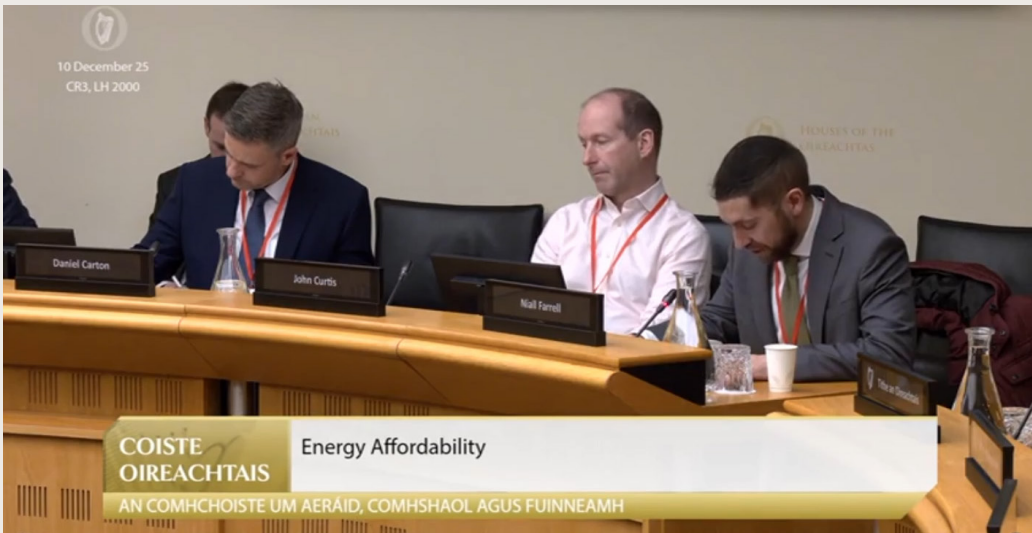
- Research funded by the **EPA**, published in November, found evidence of inequalities in exposure to nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) air pollution across the population. Using data from the EPA and Census of Population, the research found that NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are highest in areas with greater shares of non-white populations and renters.
- The ESRI's Energy Poverty research programme continued during 2025. Different metrics for energy poverty were applied to Irish datasets, and a spatial analysis of energy poverty was conducted for the first time. The results show that metrics based on expenditure on energy versus metrics based on households that curtail energy usage yield different results, with no one-size-fits-all metric.

The Energy and Environment team made a number of submissions to inform government decision-making, notably CRU calls for evidence, alongside a submission of evidence to the National Energy Affordability Taskforce.

Dr Muireann Lynch addressing the Oireachtas Committee on Budgetary Oversight on issues relating to energy.

In June, the team ran the 13th MaREI Climate and Energy Research Seminar, covering topics related to climate policy, residential energy use, and the electricity sector.





Prof John Curtis and Dr Niall Farrell addressing the Joint Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy on policy options to tackle energy affordability.

In December, John Curtis and Niall Farrell addressed the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy. Drawing on ESRI research, they analysed the primary policy options to tackle energy affordability: uniform transfers (e.g. energy credits), targeted transfers (e.g. changes to social transfers) and changes to energy prices (e.g. VAT rate changes).

## Journal Articles

[Green fiscal policies to reduce the environmental impact of consumption through a non-regressive carbon tax](#), *Economic Analysis and Policy*

[Investigating inequalities in NO<sub>2</sub> air pollution concentrations on novel indicators relating to small spatial areas](#), *International Journal for Equity in Health*

[Measuring and targeting energy poverty in Europe using a multidimensional approach](#), *Energy Policy*

[The equity and efficiency effects of energy subsidy cost-recovery](#), *Journal of Economic Inequality*

[Electric grid reliability in an era of unprecedented uncertainty: A review of advances in electric sector resource adequacy assessment and planning](#), *IEEE Transactions on Energy Markets, Policy and Regulation*

[Integer constraints in a Cournot model - an application to electricity market modelling](#), *OR Spectrum*

[Lessons from wholesale market success for system service procurement design in high renewable electricity markets, \*Nature Energy\*](#)

[Investigating inequalities in NO<sub>2</sub> air pollution concentrations on novel indicators relating to small spatial areas, \*International Journal for Equity in Health\*](#)

## Reports

[Research on the environment, health, consumer behaviour and the economy: ESRI Environment Research Programme 2022-2024](#)

## ESRI Research Bulletins

[Characterising high-speed broadband availability across Ireland](#)

[Digital and green transitions across enterprises: Do they go together?](#)

[Social and spatial inequalities in Nitrogen Dioxide \(NO<sub>2</sub>\) air pollution across Ireland](#)

## ESRI Working Papers

[What works? Evaluating environmental policy mixes through emissions-based impact indicators](#)

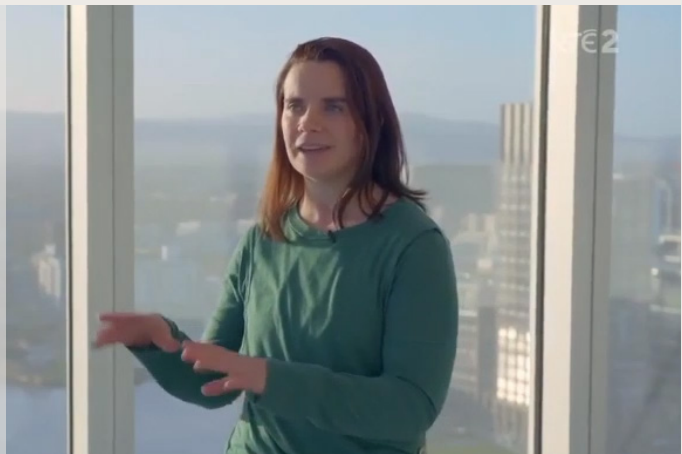
## ESRI Submissions

[Memo on energy affordability and energy poverty research: Submission of evidence to the National Energy Affordability Taskforce](#)

---

Read the full list online 

Dr Muireann Lynch speaking to RTÉ 2 on the energy landscape in Ireland.





## Research Areas

# Health and Quality of Life

### Research Area Coordinators:

Anne Nolan, Sheelah Connolly

### Researchers working in this area in 2025:

Maryam Afzal, Aoife Brick, Sean Feeney, Helen Russell, Pete Lunn, Ellen McHugh, Theano Kakoulidou, Gretta Mohan, Deirdre Robertson, Emer Smyth, Brendan Walsh, Michael Vallely, Frank Wolfe

In 2025, health and quality-of-life research focused on health service reform and public health. Health service reform included research on projected capacity requirements across the health and social care system. Public health research examined the impact of environmental conditions on health, health and wellbeing in young adults, and sexual violence.

## Research highlights and findings

In February, a half-day policy and research conference was held to discuss the findings from a series of research reports from the research programme on Sexual Health and Wellbeing, funded by the **HSE Sexual Health Programme**. This research, which used data from *Growing Up in Ireland*, examined issues of policy relevance in three key domains of sexual health and wellbeing: pornography use, sexual initiation, and sexual health literacy.

“Loneliness in Ireland is strongly associated with having few people to rely on, probable mental health issues, and feeling lonely often or always.”

In March, Dr Gretta Mohan delivered the Barrington Lecture to the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland (SSISI). The paper, ‘Who is lonely in the EU’s loneliest nation?: A post-pandemic examination of loneliness among the adult population in Ireland’, published in the *Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland*, used data from the 2021 and 2023 waves of the Healthy Ireland Survey and found a strong association between having few people to rely on, probable mental health issues, and acute loneliness (feeling lonely often or always).

“New projections to 2040 highlight the challenges in meeting future demand and capacity requirements across health and social care services.”

In December, a half-day event took place to discuss the findings from a series of reports, funded by the **Department of Health**, projecting demand and capacity requirements for a number of health and social care services to 2040. Bringing together academics, policymakers and health professionals, the event examined the challenges in meeting the projected requirements and explored potential policy pathways.



Demand for **General Practitioner (GP) consultations** will increase by at least **23% by 2040.**



GP consultations are projected to grow from **19.4 million in 2023** to between **23.9 million and 25.2 million by 2040.**

*Source: Projections of national demand and workforce requirements for general practice in Ireland, 2023–2040: Based on the Hippocrates model.*

## Other research outputs

In 2025, the comprehensive capacity review of the Irish healthcare system was completed and six related ESRI reports were published over the year. Research continued on the **Cuan**-funded programme examining adult sexual violence; on the **Health Research Board (HRB)** project in collaboration with **Trinity College Dublin** colleagues to produce an updated Health Systems in Transition profile for Ireland; on the **HRB**-funded mental health project; on the **EPA** research programme, and on the **HSE** workforce planning programme.

Throughout the year, presentations were made to a wide range of academic conferences, stakeholders and policymakers, including the Irish Economics Association conference, the Annual Health Promotion Conference, the *Growing Up in Ireland* Annual Research Conference, the Society of Actuaries Annual Convention, the Faculty of Public Health Medicine meeting, and the Nursing Homes Ireland Annual Conference.

Dr Brendan Walsh speaking at the Nursing Homes Ireland conference.



Dr Aoife Brick presenting at the Society of Actuaries Annual Convention.



## Journal Articles

[Artificial outdoor light at night and depression in older adults in the USA, England, Northern Ireland, and Ireland, \*Environment International\*](#)

[Examining the impact of reinforcement sensitivity theory on compulsive internet use through difficulty in emotion regulation, \*New Ideas in Psychology\*](#)

[Frequency of gambling, mental health, and financial stress among young adults, \*BMC Public Health\*](#)

[Health information and health behaviours: Does new information on hypertension status matter? \*The Journal of the Economics of Ageing\*](#)

[Kid gamers to adult gamblers? An investigation of gaming in childhood and young adult gambling, \*International Gambling Studies\*](#)

[Lives of Irish adolescents who were born with a cleft \(LIA-Cleft\), \*Cleft Palate Craniofacial Journal\*](#)

[The long-term effects of in utero exposure to rubella, \*Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics\*](#)



Members of the Health and Quality of Life team at the *Future Health and Social Care Capacity Requirements: Projections, Challenges and Policy Pathways* event in the ESRI. LTR: Dr Aoife Brick, Dr Sheelah Connolly, Dr Brendan Walsh, Minister of State Kieran O'Donnell TD, Frank Wolfe, Prof Martina Lawless, Prof Anne Nolan and Ellen McHugh.

[Who is lonely in the EU's loneliest nation?: A post-pandemic examination of loneliness among the adult population in Ireland, and associations with mental health, \*Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland\*](#)

## Reports

[Measuring the prevalence of adult sexual violence in Ireland: A review of Irish and international literature](#)

[Projections of national demand and bed capacity requirements for older people's care in Ireland, 2022–2040: Based on the Hippocrates model](#)

[Projections of national demand and bed capacity requirements for public acute hospitals in Ireland, 2023–2040: Based on the Hippocrates model](#)

[Projections of national demand and workforce requirements for general practice in Ireland, 2023–2040: Based on the Hippocrates model](#)

[Projections of regional demand and bed capacity requirements for older people's care in Ireland, 2022–2040: Based on the Hippocrates model](#)



Dr Elish Kelly speaking as part of a panel discussing sexual violence after the launch of *Measuring the prevalence of adult sexual violence: A review of Irish and international literature*.

[Projections of regional demand and bed capacity requirements for public acute hospitals in Ireland, 2023–2040: Based on the Hippocrates model](#)

[Projections of regional demand and workforce requirements for general practice in Ireland, 2023–2040: Based on the Hippocrates model](#)

[Promoting a nationwide collective response: lessons from the Social Activity Measure during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Sexual health literacy and sexual health behaviours among young adults in Ireland](#)

[Sexual initiation and sexual health behaviours among young adults in Ireland](#)

[The healthcare costs of poor air quality in Ireland: A review of potential data sources and methods](#)

## ESRI Research Bulletins

[Does a history of gaming in childhood represent a risk factor for gambling in young adulthood? Evidence from an Irish cohort](#)

[Loneliness among the adult population in Ireland and associations with mental health](#)

[Promoting a nationwide collective response: lessons from the Social Activity Measure during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Remote consultations in general practice in Ireland: Who is missing out?](#)

[Sexual health and wellbeing in young adulthood](#)

[Social and spatial inequalities in Nitrogen Dioxide \(NO<sub>2</sub>\) air pollution across Ireland](#)

[Variation in day surgery rates across Irish public hospitals](#)



## Research Areas

# Housing

### Research Area Coordinator:

Conor O'Toole

### Researchers working in this area in 2025:

Adele Bergin, Kate Devane, Paul Egan, Janez Kren, Kieran McQuinn, Rachel Slaymaker, Chi Tran, Brendan Walsh, Maryam Afzal, Helen Russell, Bertrand Maitre

Access to and affordability of housing are among the most critical social and economic issues both in Ireland and across the globe. The ESRI's housing research area focuses on a range of topics to provide evidence to support housing policy decisions. These topics include understanding homeownership rates, measuring housing affordability, analysing the rental sector, supply-side and land market analysis, and social aspects of housing.

In 2025, our overarching research themes included exploring the sustainability of housing markets, understanding rent control policies, improving the monitoring of rental trends, exploring energy efficiency for rented properties, and examining short-term let activity.

- Analysis of rental data shows low property-level inflation rates for private rental tenants who remain in their tenancy, and higher rates for properties with changing tenants.
- Rental monitoring through the ESRI/RTB Rent Index continued in 2025, showing detailed trends in rental prices across Ireland.
- An analysis of cross-country trends in homeownership and how Ireland fares relative to other European countries was undertaken in 2025.
- Research on rent controls found a direct, causal link between rent control measures and property exits by landlords.
- Research highlighted the challenge of understanding short-term let activity and its relationship with the private rental sector.
- Research explored investment requirements for energy efficiency upgrades in the private rental sector.



Dr Conor O'Toole addressing the Committee on Budgetary Oversight on housing in Ireland.

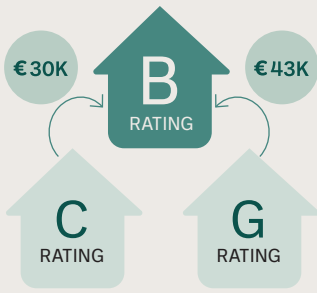
## Research highlights and findings

### **New research highlights the challenge of understanding short-term let activity and interaction with the rental sector**

Concerns over the impacts of short-term lets (STLs) on local communities have led to increased regulation of these platforms across countries in recent years. Research funded by the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage** in 2025 profiled the short-term letting sector in Ireland and its interaction with the private rental sector. The research provided comprehensive insights into the level and key characteristics of Airbnb usage across Ireland. This analysis was based on 2023 data provided by InsideAirbnb, in addition to Census 2022 small-area data. A particular focus of the work was to examine the size of Airbnb markets relative to the private rental sector in local areas. The research also highlights the findings of some initial academic studies into the impact that different types of regulation have had on the short-term let sector internationally.

### **Research explores the investment requirements for the energy efficiency upgrades of rental properties**

Supported under the long-standing research programme with the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**, research published in 2025 aimed to explore the energy efficiency of rental properties, assess the investment costs of potential upgrades and explore the affordability of these investments by small landlords. The research finds the majority



Costs of **upgrading to a B-rating** vary substantially but are estimated to be **€43,000 on average for G-rated properties** and just under **€30,000 for C-rated** properties, using 2023 prices.

*Source: Exploring investment requirements for energy efficiency upgrades in the private rental sector*

“Property-level analysis highlights a moderation in rental inflation, with notable differences between RPZs and non-RPZ areas.”

of properties are rated either C (52%) or D (30%). The remaining (approx. 45,000 rented properties) have an energy efficiency rating of E1 or below. The total investment required by property owners to retrofit the rental sector to BER of B1–B2 is estimated to be between €7 billion and €8 billion.

### Insights into property-level rental trends highlight different inflation levels across the sector

This research, funded by the **Residential Tenancies Board (RTB)**, provided a detailed analysis of rental price developments at the individual property level. It uses data from the first three years of annual registration data from the RTB. Unlike the RTB/ESRI Rent Index, which reflects growth in the average rent level in the market and is influenced by property churn, this study tracked the same properties over time to capture the household experience of rental inflation. The analysis covers over 375,000 matched property pairs between Q2 2022 and Q1 2025, offering unique insights into how rents for the same unit evolve over time, the degree of price stickiness, turnover effects and differences between Rent Pressure Zones (RPZs) compared with non-RPZ areas. The findings highlighted a moderation in property-level rental inflation during the latest year (Q2 2024–Q1 2025), alongside notable differences between RPZs and non-RPZ areas, and between properties with ongoing tenancies and those with tenant turnover. More academic work focusing on how these trends differ by landlord size was also published.

### Supply-side effects of rent controls

Collaborative research between the ESRI, Trinity College Dublin and the University of Galway considered the supply-side effects of rent control in Ireland. The research used the introduction of rent stabilisation measures in Ireland after 2016, and their tightening in 2021, to understand the impact of these policies on the supply of rental housing and whether the policies caused properties to exit the sector. Rental activity is measured using both online listings and official tenancy registrations, with further data on room rentals. The research finds evidence of exit from the rental market, specifically after rent controls were tightened in 2021: rent controls are associated with more sale listings and fewer rental listings/registrations. The negative impact of rent controls on room rental listings is, likewise, consistent with market exit rather than simply reduced mobility.

## Other research outputs

The ESRI produces quarterly rental trend figures in the long-standing ESRI/RTB Rent Index, funded by the **Residential Tenancies Board**. This market surveillance is the most authoritative and comprehensive periodic analysis of trends in rental activity produced for the Irish market, leveraging large administrative datasets. As part of the research funded by the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**, the ESRI undertook research on comparing homeownership rates across the European Union and explored how Ireland fared in a cross-country context. Research on modelling the house-price to rent ratio explored the role of monetary policy and changing credit conditions.

As part of the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** Real Estate Market Advisory Group, the ESRI was involved in a large cross-country study of housing affordability across UNECE member countries that was published in 2025. In terms of external engagements, ESRI housing researchers presented to a range of public and private stakeholders, the Oireachtas Budgetary Oversight Committee, the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage and a range of other public-sector bodies. ESRI research was presented at numerous academic conferences, including events organised by the European Network on Housing Research and the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence at the University of Glasgow.

Dr Rachel Slaymaker at the Residential Tenancies Board's Annual Conference with Brian Gallwey, Senior Research and Policy Manager at the RTB.



Dr Janez Kren presenting at the National Retrofit Conference 2025 on energy efficiency in the private rental sector.



## Journal Articles

[The impact of monetary policy shocks on residential investment and house prices in small euro area economies, \*Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics\*](#)

[The supply side effects of rent controls: Evidence from Ireland, \*Journal of Housing Economics\*](#)

## Reports

[Exploring investment requirements for energy efficiency upgrades in the private rental sector](#)

[Profiling short-term let usage across Ireland](#)

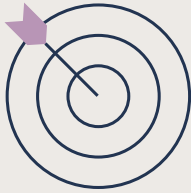
[Understanding trends in property-level rental inflation](#)

## ESRI Working Papers

[Landlord size, rent controls and rent pricing behaviour: Evidence from Ireland](#)

---

Read the full list online 



## Research Areas

# Labour Market and Skills

### Research Area Coordinator:

Seamus McGuinness

### Researchers working in this area in 2025:

Luke Brosnan, Anne Devlin, Elish Kelly, Lorcan Kelly, Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond, Elisa Staffa, Adele Whelan

## Research highlights and findings

In 2025, research covered a diverse range of topics, resulting in several newly released or finalised publications, in addition to work commencing in new areas of research. The team launched the second report under a research programme with the **Department for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science**, which developed an Evaluation Framework for the National Training Fund. A study, funded by **Pobal**, was also published, examining changes in area-level barriers to social inclusion over time; it found improvements in economic outcomes but widening health inequalities. Papers from the research programme with **Pobal** were published in *Regional Studies*, *Regional Science* and the *Economic and Social Review*.

Research funded by the **Low Pay Commission** was published examining regional patterns of minimum-wage employment in Ireland, using online job vacancy data. Papers were also published in *Applied Economics*, *Economica* and the *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, based on work funded under the **Low Pay Commission programme**. Also published was a paper funded by the **Department of Finance** examining the incidence and characteristics of green and brown jobs in Ireland. A number of new studies commenced in 2025, including research comparing wellbeing across Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht areas funded by **Údarás na Gaeltachta**, an evaluation of the DEIS programme funded by the **Department of Education and Youth**, and an examination of the gender gap in digital skill usage at work, funded by **Block W**.

The team continued to research North-South issues; researchers co-authored reports on differences in living standards and on a synthesis study comparing a range of life opportunities on both sides of the border, funded under the ESRI's joint research

## Barriers to Social Inclusion (2026-2022)



### Uneven progress:

Some barriers to social inclusion declined, while others became more common in certain communities



### Jobs & education improved:

Unemployment and low educational attainment fell across communities



### Gap narrowed:

The largest improvements occurred in more deprived areas, reducing the disadvantage gap



### Health worsened:

Poor health increased overall, with health declines strongest in the most deprived areas.

programme with the **Shared Island Unit**. Also under this programme, work began on cross-border differences in disability rates. Northern Ireland-specific work is also ongoing, with a first-of-its-kind study of student mobility, funded by the **Northern Ireland Department for the Economy**. The so-called ‘Northern Ireland brain drain’ is often cited by stakeholders, policymakers and in the media yet there is no recent evidence on the issue. Two additional Northern Ireland projects were commenced in late 2025, funded by **EPIC FUTURES NI**. These will examine social capital and conflict scarring on employment outcomes in an effort to help tackle the region’s economic inactivity.

In 2025, researchers published a number of outputs from two projects, funded by **Horizon Europe**, on the topic of skills mismatches: **TRAILS** and **SkillsPULSE**. These included studies on skill shortages, skill gaps and undereducation. Researchers also published two chapters on various aspects of skill mismatch in the *Handbook of Education and Work* and the *Handbook on Education and the Labour Market*. Team members also had two papers on skill mismatches accepted for a special edition of the *Journal of Education and Work*, and published papers examining the earnings and job satisfaction of Vocational Education and Training (VET) graduates in *Education Economics*, and regional youth employment in *Journal of Youth Studies*.

Source: *Barriers to social inclusion in Ireland: Change over time and space, 2016-2022*

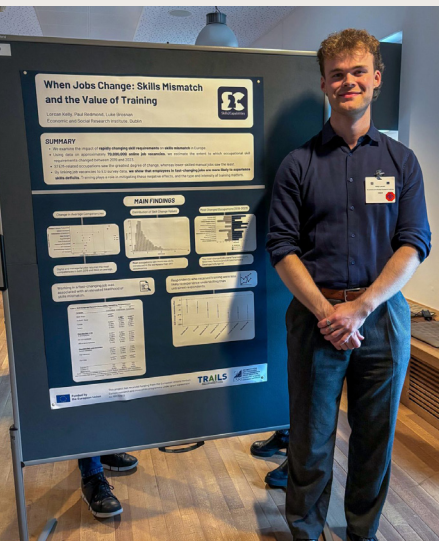


ESRI researchers, Dr Michael Vallely, Dr Elish Kelly, Eva Slevin, Delia Agostinelli, Dr Anne Devlin, Elisa Staffa and Prof Helen Russell at the annual NERI Labour Market Conference.

“Our study on skill shortages developed a new methodology that enables the measurement of potential skill shortages over time and across countries.”

“Ensuring that National Training Fund initiatives can be properly evaluated is a matter of national interest.”

Lorcan Kelly presenting a TRAILS Project paper *When Jobs Change: Skills Mismatch and the Value of Training* co-authored by Dr Paul Redmond and Dr Luke Brosnan at the Skills2Capabilities - Horizon Europe conference in Maastricht.



## Highlights

- Our study on skill shortages developed a new methodology that enables the measurement of potential skill shortages over time and across countries. There is a lack of clarity and consistency on how skill shortages are defined and measured. In this study, using data from the 2021 European Skills and Jobs Survey combined with Lightcast job vacancy data, we attempted to bridge this methodological gap. We estimated that approximately 2% of job vacancies in the European Union are likely to experience skill shortages. The methodological approach developed in the paper has been adopted by Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, as the explicit basis for its new TalentGap Index.
- Our study of the National Training Fund (NTF) sought to systematically assess the extent to which all initiatives funded under the NTF can be evaluated using counterfactual impact evaluation (CIE) and, where CIE is not feasible, the most suitable methodologies based on project structure and objectives. The NTF has played a strong role in funding workforce development initiatives in Ireland over the past 25 years and is expected to have funding of €1.485 billion available over the six-year period between 2025 and 2030. Ensuring that NTF initiatives can be properly evaluated is a matter of national interest.

## Journal Articles

[A comparison of approaches for identifying minimum wage workers: Direct question versus administrative earnings data, \*British Journal of Industrial Relations, an international journal of employment relations\*](#)

[COVID-19 employment disruption and area-level deprivation, \*Regional Studies, Regional Science\*](#)

[Labour market dynamics of minimum wage workers, \*Applied Economics\*](#)

[Regional youth employment: trends, drivers and the impact of the knowledge economy and decarbonisation, \*Journal of Youth Studies\*](#)

[Vocational education, earnings and job satisfaction in Europe, \*Education Economics\*](#)

[Will childcare subsidies increase the labour supply of mothers in Ireland? \*Fiscal Studies\*](#)

## Reports

[A study of minimum wage employment in Ireland using online job vacancy data](#)

[Child related leave: Usage and implications for gender equality](#)

[COMPARE I: Skills mismatching in Europe pre- and post-pandemic](#)

[Roadmap for an evaluation of the National Training Fund](#)

[Sharing the Island: Economic and social challenges and opportunities: Evidence from an ESRI research programme](#)

## Chapters in Books and Reports

[Does vocational education protect graduates from skills mismatches?, Chapter 12 in \*Handbook on Education and the Labour Market\*](#)

Dr Anne Devlin speaking at the InterTradeIreland Roundtable for the release of their All-Island Business Monitor.





Prof Seamus McGuinness addressing the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement on how health and health systems compare in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

[Employment shifts in Europe from 1997 to 2021: The cases of Ireland, France, Spain, Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy, Sweden and Romania, Chapter 4 in \*Global Trends in Job Polarisation and Upgrading\*](#)

[Skills mismatch: what do we already know and what do we need to know?, Chapter 15 in \*Handbook of Education and Work\*](#)

## ESRI Research Bulletin

[A comparison of approaches for identifying minimum wage workers: Direct question versus administrative earnings data](#)

## ESRI Working Papers

[Assessing the labour market impact of the green transition in Ireland](#)

[The labour market impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals with disabilities: The case of Ireland](#)

---

Read the full list online 



# Macroeconomics

**Research Area Coordinators:**  
Adele Bergin, Conor O'Toole

**Researchers working  
in this area in 2025:**

Alan Barrett, Adele Bergin,  
Seraphim Dempsey, Kate  
Devane, Luke Doyle, Paul  
Egan, Elish Kelly, Janez  
Kren, Kieran McQuinn, Dónal  
O'Shea, Conor O'Toole, Iulia  
Siedschlag, Rachel Slaymaker,  
Akhilesh Kumar Verma

Macroeconomic research in 2025 continued to examine the drivers of Ireland's economic performance, focusing on both short-term fluctuations and long-term structural challenges. Core areas included assessing medium-term growth prospects, understanding the implications of demographic changes, and analysing risks to the economy from both domestic and global developments. This work underpins policy analysis by providing evidence on economic resilience, labour market trends, and fiscal dynamics.

## Research highlights and findings

### **Structural macroeconomic model for Northern Ireland**

In 2025, a new structural macroeconomic model was developed in partnership with NIESR and funded by **Ibec** to support medium-term projections and policy analysis on an all-island basis. The model captures interactions between households, firms, government, and the foreign sector, linking Northern Ireland formally to both the Irish and the wider UK economy. Early simulations indicate that Northern Ireland's output responds differently to monetary and fiscal shocks than the rest of the UK, and that growth spillovers from Ireland can generate positive effects.

### **Tariffs and protectionist trade policy impacts on Ireland**

A March 2025 working paper examined how rising protectionism, including tariff and nontariff barriers, could affect Ireland's highly open economy. Using the ESRI's structural model of the Irish economy, COSMO, the research finds that both unilateral and bilateral tariff scenarios could reduce GDP and domestic demand by several percentage points relative to a no-tariff baseline over the next 5–7 years, with the traded sector particularly exposed due to its global integration. Higher tariffs could also weaken employment and tax receipts, placing added pressure on public finances. This research garnered international media coverage.

“Early simulations indicate that Northern Ireland's output responds differently to monetary and fiscal shocks than the rest of the UK.”



The launch of *Assessing Economic Trends in Ireland and Northern Ireland*, a joint research programme between the Department of the Taoiseach's Shared Island Unit and the ESRI. LTR: Émer Deane (Assistant Secretary, Shared Island Unit), Anne Barrington (Shared Island Chair), Prof Martina Lawless (ESRI Director), Simon Harris TD (Tánaiste and Minister for Finance), Dr Adele Bergin (Associate Research Professor, ESRI) and Prof Alan Barrett (Research Professor, ESRI).

### **Quarterly commentary highlights Ireland's ongoing strong performance, but with rising global risks**

The Quarterly Economic Commentaries published throughout 2025 highlighted Ireland's strong economic performance, with robust consumption and exports. However, key themes throughout the year were a moderation in employment growth and ongoing capacity constraints in housing and infrastructure. Also highlighted was Ireland's vulnerability to international developments – in particular, risks related to corporation tax receipts and multinational activity.

### **New shared-island economic survey launched**

In December 2025, the first ESRI annual economic survey of Ireland and Northern Ireland was launched in partnership with the **Shared Island Unit**. The survey, which reported growth in employment and output across both jurisdictions, provides a new platform for comparative economic analysis.

### **Implications of demographics and investment for Ireland's future growth potential**

In January 2025, ESRI presented longrun projections for the Irish economy using a Solow growth framework, combining a baseline scenario with alternatives reflecting higher investment rates and different migration paths. The analysis highlights strong recent growth driven by population and labour force expansion, but identifies emerging constraints from declining investment rates and demographic ageing, underscoring the importance of sustained capital formation to support medium-term growth.

“Ireland's economy continues to perform strongly, but remains vulnerable to global risks, particularly those linked to corporation tax receipts and multinational activity.”



(L-R) Prof Alan Barrett and Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD at the launch of *Sharing the Island: Economic and social challenges and opportunities: Evidence from an ESRI research programme*.



Under a baseline scenario where the economy is assumed to grow along its current trajectory without experiencing significant shocks, **gross national income (GNI\*)** is projected to grow by

**2.3%**  
per annum  
out to 2030

**2.1%**  
per annum  
out to 2035

Source: Ireland's medium-term economic outlook: *Risks and opportunities*

### Irish medium-term economic outlook emphasises risk and opportunity

In December 2025, ESRI published a medium-term economic outlook outlining baseline projections to 2035 and scenarios for potential external shocks such as global slowdown, loss of competitiveness, and downsizing by multinationals. The report underscores both opportunities for continued growth and vulnerabilities tied to global conditions and domestic policy settings.

### Other research outputs

Throughout 2025, researchers presented findings at a range of national and international forums, including Oireachtas committee hearings, policy roundtables and academic conferences. Research programme collaborations continued and expanded with the **Department of Finance**, **Ibec**, the **Shared Island Unit**, and the **Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment**. In addition, the macroeconomics team produce a monthly nowcast of Modified Domestic Demand (MDD) which uses real-time indicators to estimate economic activity before the official CSO numbers are available.

Dr Adele Bergin presenting her findings for the report *Assessing economic trends in Ireland and Northern Ireland*.



## Journal Articles

[Demographics, higher investment and the future potential growth rate of the Irish economy](#), *Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland*

[Financial stress and its relationship with the macroeconomy – the case of Ireland](#), *Applied Economics Letters*

[Firm dynamics and productivity by age: evidence from Ireland](#), *Small Business Economics*

[Hare or tortoise? Productivity and growth of Irish domestic firms](#), *Economic and Social Review*

[The impact of deglobalisation and protectionism on a small open economy – the case of Ireland](#), *Research in Globalization*

[Shrinking pie in times of conflict: evidence from India's Jammu and Kashmir](#), *Oxford Development Studies*

## Reports

[Assessing economic trends in Ireland and Northern Ireland](#)

[Economic overview of Ireland and Northern Ireland](#)

[Ireland's medium-term economic outlook: Risks and opportunities](#)

[Modelling Northern Ireland within the context of the all-island economy](#)

[Quarterly Economic Commentary, Autumn 2025](#)

[Quarterly Economic Commentary, Spring 2025](#)

[Quarterly Economic Commentary, Summer 2025](#)

[Quarterly Economic Commentary, Winter 2025](#)

[SME investment report 2024: Developments between 2016 and 2023](#)

## QEC Special Articles and Research Notes

[The Irish pharmaceutical sector](#)

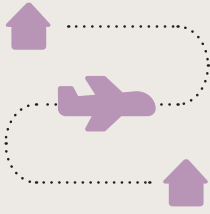
## ESRI Working Papers

[A comparison of homeownership rates across European Union countries: How fares Ireland?](#)

[A macro-model of the Northern Ireland Economy](#)

[Monetary policy shocks, changing credit conditions and the house price to rent ratio: The case of the Irish property market](#)

[The impact of deglobalisation and protectionism on a small open economy – The case of Ireland](#)



## Research Areas

# Migration Integration and Demography

### Research Area Coordinators:

Frances McGinnity and  
Emma Quinn

### Researchers working in this area in 2025:

Daniel Capistrano, Evan  
Carron-Kee, Merike Darmody,  
Anousheh Alamir, Shahd  
Almodallal, Elish Kelly, Ada  
Sophia Hahn, Keire Murphy,  
Ciára Dalton, Aislin Lavin,  
Lúcás Rohan

Research in this area focuses on the integration of migrants, as well as migration trends and policy. In 2025, ESRI research examined how the foreign-born population is faring across a range of integration indicators, as well as community-level factors affecting attitudes to immigration. The European Migration Network looked at the geographical distribution of protection applicant accommodation, among a range of topics.

In January 2025, the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (DJHAM) joined the ESRI Research Programme on Integration, Migration and Equality (RIME). The Irish National Contact Point of the European Migration Network (EMN Ireland) is located in the ESRI, with a subunit in the DJHAM. EMN Ireland is funded by the European Commission and the DJHAM.

## Research highlights and findings

Many indicators remained strong in the *2024 Monitoring Report on Integration*, such as higher education and employment rates among migrants, but migrants were more likely to experience poverty and high housing costs.

- Research showed that living in more disadvantaged communities made people more likely to hold negative attitudes towards immigration; in particular, where there was a recent increase in migrants.
- EMN research found that most countries experience challenges in engaging with local communities when opening international protection accommodation centres, and outlined criteria for distributing centres and applicants among regions.
- An EMN/OECD study found that the majority of member countries have one or more migration strategies in place, while 11 have both an overarching strategy and one or more sectoral strategies.

“Living in more disadvantaged communities is associated with more negative attitudes towards immigration, particularly where there has been a recent increase in migrants.”



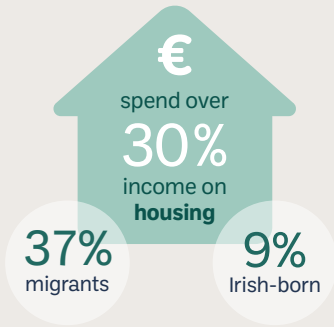
The EMN Ireland team at their annual conference in Croke Park. LTR: Emma Quinn, Ailish Mitchell, Ciára Dalton, Aislin Lavin, Ada Sophia Hahn and Keire Murphy.

The *2024 Monitoring Report on Integration*, the ninth in the series, was published in March 2025. It found that migrants are more likely to be employed, active in the labour market, and third level-educated compared to the Irish-born population. However, migrants are more likely to experience poverty and deprivation. Of those born outside the EU, 20% are considered ‘at risk of poverty’, compared to 11% of Irish-born residents. Migrants are also much more likely to be affected by high housing costs: 37% of migrants spend more than 30% of their income on housing, compared to 9% of Irish-born residents. This report was funded under the **ESRI/Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Research Programme**.

“Of those born outside the EU, 20% are considered ‘at risk of poverty’, compared to 11% of Irish-born residents.”

A Research Bulletin published in July 2025 summarises research showing that the share of migrants in a community and recent increases in migrants (between 2011 and 2022) were not associated with attitudes towards immigration in Ireland overall. However, living in a more disadvantaged community was linked with more negative attitudes towards immigration; in particular, disadvantaged communities where there had been an increase in migrants since 2011.

In September, EMN published a study on the distribution of international protection accommodation centres and management of relationships with local communities. This study was led by EMN Ireland. Fourteen EMN member countries and Serbia distribute applicants according to criteria such as regional demographics, infrastructure, proximity to services, and individuals’ needs (e.g. health conditions, family status, vulnerability). Just five countries have formal communication plans to support the opening of new accommodation centres.



**37% of migrants** spend over **30% of their income** on housing, compared with **9% of Irish-born residents**.

*Source: Monitoring report on integration 2024*

However, most do engage with local authorities and elected representatives, while 16 also engage directly with local communities, before or upon opening new centres.

In March 2025, EMN published a study on the different approaches taken to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of migration strategies in EMN/OECD countries. This study was led by EMN Ireland. It found that in most cases an overarching migration strategy is in place, covering at least three policy fields (e.g. asylum, labour migration, return). A single government department usually leads on strategy development, with working groups formed with other departments and relevant stakeholders. Challenges were reported in the design of strategies related to inter-governmental and stakeholder coordination, as well as the involvement of migrant groups. The Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration is currently drafting Ireland’s first overarching migration and integration strategy.

## Other research outputs

In January and December 2025, EMN Ireland published its 2023 and 2024 annual reviews of migration and asylum-related developments. The latest report showed a continued reduction in arrivals from Ukraine, and a decrease in first-residence permits issued to non-EEA arrivals, while the number of employment permits issued increased by 27% in 2024. The lack of accommodation for asylum applicants worsened in 2024, with almost 6,000 applicants not housed on arrival during the year. Vulnerability assessments, paused due to capacity challenges, were partially resumed following the sourcing of an external provider in 2024.

Under the Research Programme on Integration, Migration and Equality (RIME), work progressed on a wide range of projects. Among these, researchers investigated, through behavioural research, the role of misperceptions in attitudes to immigration; the spatial distribution and local-level integration of migrants in Ireland, and experiences of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. The results of an experiment on labour market discrimination against Travellers were presented to the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) and Pavee Point in October. Several related publications will follow in 2026. The EMN Ireland Migration Memos series continued to provide short, accessible summaries of EMN EU-level information and ESRI research. Three were published in 2025, covering financial contributions to international protection accommodation, civic training and migration strategies.



EMN Senior Policy Officer, Keire Murphy, presenting at the EMN annual conference.

## Journal Articles

[Community-level drivers of attitudes towards immigration in Ireland, \*Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies\*](#)

[The perception of names in experimental studies on ethnic origin: A cross-national validation in Europe, \*Scientific Data\*](#)

## Reports

[Annual report on migration and asylum 2023](#)

[Asylum and migration overview 2024: Ireland](#)

[Monitoring report on integration 2024](#)

## ESRI Research Bulletins

[Are community characteristics linked to people's attitudes to immigration in Ireland?](#)

## EMN Ireland Migration Memo

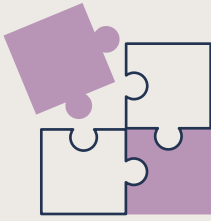
[How do EMN countries manage contributions to international protection accommodation?](#)

[How do EMN Member Countries approach civic training as a tool for integration?](#)

[How do EMN Member Countries design and implement migration strategies?](#)

---

Read the full list online 



## Research Areas

# Social Inclusion and Equality

### Research Area Coordinators:

Bertrand Maitre and Frances McGinnity

### Researchers working in this area in 2025:

Anousheh Alamir, Daniel Capistrano, Evan Carron-Kee, Caoimhe Dempsey, Anne Devlin, Karina Doorley, Claire Keane, Elish Kelly, Pete Lunn, Selina McCoy, Seamus McGuinness, Anna Moya Ponce, Helen Russell, Agathe Simon, Eva Slevin, Emer Smyth, Michael Vallely, Adele Whelan

Research on social inclusion and equality explores the conditions that shape people's access to the material and social resources needed to engage fully in economic and social life, as well as the mechanisms that produce unequal opportunities and outcomes. In 2025, researchers examined a wide range of issues, including poverty and social exclusion, parental and child-related leave, the financial impact of disability, the role of school experiences in girls' wellbeing, childhood and adolescent bullying and gender balance in the financial sector.

## Research highlights and findings

In January, a collaborative study with the **Shared Island unit in the Department of the Taoiseach** compared child poverty and related policies in Ireland and Northern Ireland. It found that, despite similar positions in the income distribution, low-income families in Ireland were less able to translate household income into an adequate standard of living, likely due to higher living costs. In both jurisdictions, children in lone-parent households, larger families, and households with a disabled member experienced much higher poverty risks, while joblessness was an even stronger risk factor for child poverty in Ireland than in Northern Ireland.

A report published in April by the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission** examined the use of child-related leave in Ireland and its implications for gender equality. It found that Ireland's persistent gender income gap, driven largely by lower female labour-market participation and higher rates of part-time work, emerges around the birth of a child and continues throughout women's lives. While the introduction of Paternity Leave and Parent's Leave was a positive development, uptake remained low. The report highlighted that child-related leave can help reduce gender gaps by protecting mothers' employment and encouraging fathers' involvement in care, but financial constraints, gender norms and workplace factors continue to limit take-up.

“Compared with low-income families in Northern Ireland, low-income families in Ireland were less able to translate household income into an adequate standard of living, likely due to higher living costs.”



Bertrand Maître, Dr Anousheh Alamir and Prof Helen Russell at the launch of *Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland: Fifth annual report*.



**One in five children** (over 225,000) lived in families **below the poverty line** once housing costs are included, placing Ireland 16th out of 27 EU countries on this measure.

Source: *Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland: Fifth annual report*

Research published in June, in partnership with the **Department of Children, Disability and Equality**, used *Growing Up in Ireland* data to profile fathers who do not live full-time with their children. The study showed that 14% of children aged nine months to five years and 18% by age nine did not reside full-time with their fathers. Despite this, many fathers remained actively involved. Mothers reported that half of non-resident fathers saw their babies or toddlers several times a week. From the child’s perspective, relationships with the fathers were generally positive, with just over half of nine-year-olds saying they got on “very well”, highlighting the importance of their father in their lives.

A September ESRI report, produced in partnership with **Community Foundation Ireland**, highlighted ongoing challenges in poverty and living standards. It found that one in five children (over 225,000) lived in families below the poverty line once housing costs are included, placing Ireland 16th out of 27 EU countries on this measure. As well, after adjustment for inflation and household size, real household incomes declined. Average household incomes fell by 0.6% in 2023 and were 3.3% lower than in 2021, as an 11.3% rise in nominal income was outpaced by a 14.6% increase in prices.

## Other research outputs

In April 2025, ESRI researchers Dr Anne Devlin and Dr Selina McCoy addressed the **Northern Ireland Assembly’s Education Committee**. They presented evidence on educational disadvantage in Ireland. Drawing on the *Growing Up in Ireland* study and recent ESRI projects, they highlighted key inequalities in student outcomes and then discussed comparative research examining differences between the education systems in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

On 18 June 2025, ESRI researchers Karina Doorley, Bertrand Maître and Simona Sándorová addressed the **Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social Protection, Rural and Community Development**. On 16 October, Karina Doorley and Helen Russell addressed the **Oireachtas Joint Committee on Children and Equality**. At both events, drawing on recent ESRI work, they outlined key evidence on child poverty in Ireland, including how it is measured, the role of social welfare supports, and the potential impact of policy reforms proposed by the ESRI.

## Journal Articles

[Health impacts of COVID-19 and area-level deprivation in Ireland, \*Economic and Social Review\*](#)

[Determinants of incumbent electoral success: evidence from 30 years of Irish elections, \*Economic and Social Review\*](#)

Prof Helen Russell (right) speaking on a panel at the third annual report from Ireland’s Women in Finance Charter with David Healy (Monument Insurance), Anne Marie McKiernan (Central Bank of Ireland) and Fiona Gallagher (Women in Finance Charter).

### Panel Speakers

**Fiona Gallagher**

Chair of Ireland’s Women in Finance Charter and CEO of Wells Fargo Bank International

**Dr Helen Russell**

Research Professor, ESRI, and co-author of the ESRI report

**Anne Marie McKiernan**

Director of Financial Operations, Central Bank of Ireland

**David Healy**

CEO, Monument Insurance



Researchers and speakers at the launch of *Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland: Fifth annual report*. LTR: Jerry O'Connor (Community Foundation Ireland), Dr Anousheh Alamir (ESRI), Tara Mitchell (Trinity College Dublin), Jenny Courtney (Belvedere Youth Club), Prof Martina Lawless (Director, ESRI), Barra Roantree (Trinity College Dublin), Prof Helen Russell (ESRI) and Bertrand Maitre (ESRI).

## Reports

[Barriers to social inclusion in Ireland: Change over time and space, 2016-2022](#)

[Child poverty on the island of Ireland](#)

[Deprived children in Ireland: Characterising those who are deprived but not income-poor](#)

[Experience of bullying and bullying behaviours in childhood and adolescence](#)

[Including non-resident fathers in cohort research: a scoping study](#)

[Ireland's Women in Finance Charter: Annual Report 2025](#)

[Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland: Fifth annual report](#)

[Thematic report on persistent income poverty and deprivation in Ireland: An analysis of the longitudinal Central Statistics Office \(CSO\) Survey on Income and Living Conditions \(SILC\), 2015-2023](#)

## ESRI Research Bulletins

[The legacy of the Northern Irish 'Troubles' and disability](#)

---

Read the full list online 



# Tax, Welfare and Pensions

## Research Area Coordinators:

Karina Doorley and  
Claire Keane

## Researchers working in this area in 2025:

Dora Tuda, Michele Gubello,  
Agathe Simon, Iris Wohnsiedler,  
Simona Sándorová, Maxime  
Bercholz, Richard O'Shea, Cian  
Mowlds, Siddhant Seth.

“The financial cost of disability is estimated to absorb around half of the disposable income of households with a disabled member.”

This research area examines the design of the tax, welfare and pensions system, with a focus on the effect it has on redistribution, poverty, inequality and incentives to work. Much of this work uses SWITCH, the ESRI tax and benefit model, to simulate the impact of reforms on households. Many of the outputs mentioned below are part of the **Tax, Welfare and Pensions** work programme, supported by funding from the **Departments of Social Protection; Health; Children, Disability and Equality; and Finance**, as well as through the grant-in aid provided by the **Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation**.

## Research highlights and findings

- The financial cost of disability was estimated to be around one half of the disposable income of households with disabled members.
- Without child-related benefits, child poverty rates would be considerably higher: the child at risk of poverty (AROP) rate would increase from 13.9% to 27%, the child material deprivation rate from 19.5% to 23.3% and the child consistent poverty rate from 5.6% to 13.6%.
- Measures announced as part of Budget 2026 will result in small income losses next year, averaging 2% of household disposable income, compared to a budget indexed to forecast income growth.

At the annual Budget Perspectives conference in June, organised by the Tax, Welfare and Pensions team for nearly three decades, a report on the effect of child-related benefits on child poverty and deprivation was launched. It found that in-cash child-related benefits reduce the child AROP rate by 10 percentage points, while in-kind child-related benefits reduce the child AROP rate by 1.5 percentage points. A second tier of child benefit was found to be the most cost-effective way of further reducing child poverty.



Researchers and speakers at *Budget Perspectives 2026* – an annual conference to discuss policy issues related to the national Budget. LTR: Dr Michael Christl (Universidad Loyola), Dr Claire Keane (ESRI), Prof Martina Lawless (Director, ESRI), John McKeon (Secretary General, Department of Social Protection), Dr Karina Doorley (ESRI), Simona Sándorová (ESRI).

Two other pieces of research were presented at this conference. The first examined the Medical Card coverage and the impact of non-indexation of Medical Card income limits. The second examined the empirical relationship between redistribution and growth, finding that redistribution increases economic growth in the short term.



**Without child-related benefits**, child poverty rates would be considerably higher:

Child at risk of poverty (AROP):  
from

**13.9% to 27%**

Child material deprivation: from

**19.5% to 23.3%**

Child consistent poverty: from

**5.6% to 13.6%**

*Source: The effect of child-related benefits on child poverty and deprivation in Ireland.*

In October, the team held their annual post-Budget briefing. This work showed that measures announced as part of Budget 2026 will result in small income losses on average, compared to a budget indexed to forecast income growth. The withdrawal of temporary cost-of-living measures results in relatively large income losses for low-income households, while the freeze to tax credits and bands exacerbates income losses for high-income households. This work was published in more detail as a special article in the ESRI's *Quarterly Economic Commentary* in December.

The team also published a variety of articles throughout the year in peer-reviewed journals. These relate to the measurement of poverty and inequality; the political economy of in-kind versus in-cash redistribution; social trust and depression among immigrants, and the effect of childcare subsidies on labour supply. Other research published during the year covered the topics of disability and its monetary cost, and tax individualisation.

“Budget 2026 will result in small income losses on average, compared to a budget indexed to forecast income growth.”

The work of the Tax, Welfare and Pensions team maintained its strong policy focus. The SWITCH model continued to be used in a range of government departments to feed into policy decisions. Members of the team gave evidence to the Budgetary Oversight Committee, the Joint Committee on Children and Equality, and the Committees on Social Protection, Rural and Community Development, and Disability Matters. They also delivered presentations at important national and international policy-relevant events organised by the Irish Economic Association, the Irish Society for Women in Economics, Ibec, the International Microsimulation Association, the Luxembourg Income Study and the European Commission.

### Journal Articles

[How important are the unit of analysis and equivalence scales when measuring income poverty and inequality? Evidence from Ireland, \*International Journal of Microsimulation\*](#)

[Inherited social trust and depression among second-generation immigrants, \*Kyklos\*](#)

[The political economy of in-kind versus cash redistribution in Europe, \*International Tax and Public Finance\*](#)

Dr Karina Doorley presenting at *Budget Perspectives 2026* – an annual conference to discuss policy issues related to the national Budget.



## At risk of poverty rates by age (%)





Dr Claire Keane speaking to RTÉ following the release of the ESRI's Budget analysis for 2026.

## QEC Special Articles and Research Notes

[Distributional impact of tax and welfare policies: Budget 2026](#)

## Reports

[Adjusting estimates of poverty for the cost of disability](#)

## Budget Perspectives Papers

[The effect of child-related benefits on child poverty and deprivation in Ireland](#)

## ESRI Working Papers

[Childcare subsidies, childcare costs and benefit erosion: Simulations for Ireland](#)

[Medical Card coverage and the impact of income limit freezes](#)

---

Read the full list online 

# External Commitments of Research Staff

## ALAN BARRETT

- Research Fellow, ROCKWOOL Foundation Berlin – Institute for the Economy and the Future of Work
- Honorary Fellow, Society of Actuaries in Ireland
- Member, Royal Irish Academy
- Member, Northern Ireland Fiscal Council
- Member, National Competitiveness and Productivity Council
- Member, External Advisory Board, Parliamentary Budget Office
- Chair, Commission on Care for Older People
- Member, Board of the National Auto-Enrolment Retirement Savings Authority

## ADELE BERGIN

- Council Member, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council
- Chairperson, Economic and Social Studies Council
- Research Fellow, Institute of Labour Economics (IZA), Bonn
- Member, Advisory Board, Department of Economics, Maynooth University
- Member, Central Statistics Office Expert Group on Population and Labour Force Projections
- Member, Central Statistics Office Census Advisory Group
- Member, Steering Group, ESRI/Department of Finance Research Programme

## AOIFE BRICK

- Member, Public Sector Modelling Group
- Member, Disability Capacity Review Advisory Group

## DANIEL CAPISTRANO

- Member, National Steering Committee of the European Social Survey
- Member, Organising Committee for the 2026 Conference of the European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR)
- Member, International Network of the World Values Survey

## SHEELAH CONNOLLY

- Member, Health Research Consent Declaration Committee
- Member, Modelling Infectious Disease Ireland Group
- Member, Expert Advisory Group for the Review of urgent and emergency healthcare services in the HSE Mid-West health region

## JOHN CURTIS

- Member, IAEE Agriculture and Climate Stakeholder Forum

## CIÁRA DALTON

- Chair/Board Member, Hygiene Hub
- Member, Legal Services Regulatory Authority's Roll of Practising Barristers

## MERIKE DARMODY

- Member of PhD Thesis Panel, Department of Sociology, TCD

## KELLY DE BRUIN

- Associate Editor, *Climatic Change*

## ÇAĞAÇAN DEĞER

- Associate Editor, *World Journal of Applied Economics*

## ANNE DEVLIN

- Visiting Researcher, Queen's University Belfast
- Steering Group Member, Centre for Economics, Policy and History, Trinity College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast
- Member, All-Island Social Security Network

## KARINA DOORLEY

- Research Fellow, Institute of Labour Economics (IZA), Bonn
- Board Member, International Microsimulation Association
- Member, EUROMOD Irish country team
- Member, external advisory group to IGEES
- Member, Young Academy Ireland, Royal Irish Academy
- Member, UCD Economics External Advisory Board
- Ordinary Council Member, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

## PAUL EGAN

- Member, CSO Industrial Production and Turnover Ad-hoc Group
- Researcher/Developer, The Nowcasting Lab, KOF Swiss Economic Institute, ETH Zurich
- Member, Steering Group, ESRI/Department of Finance Research Programme

## NIALL FARRELL

- Member, Young Academy Ireland, Royal Irish Academy
- Member, National Energy Affordability Taskforce

- External Examiner, PhD viva, University of Oxford

## THEANO KAKOULIDOU

- Committee Member, Irish Society of Women in Economics (ISWE)

## CLAIRE KEANE

- Member, Projects Committee, Foundation for Fiscal Studies
- Member, Technical Advisory Group, Social Inclusion Division, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
- Member, EUROMOD Irish Country Team
- Member, Public Service Data Strategy Working Group (DPENDR)

## ELISH KELLY

- Research Fellow, Institute of Labour Economics (IZA), Bonn
- *Growing Up in Ireland*: Research and Practice Expert Advisory Group

## MARTINA LAWLESS

- Council Member, Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland
- Council Member, Council of the Irish Economics Association
- Member, National Statistics Board

## PETE LUNN

- European Commission Scientific Advisory Body on a Fair and Sustainable Economy
- Advisory Group on Social and Behavioural Research for Climate Action, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Climate Change and Biodiversity Advisory

- Group, Community Foundation of Ireland
- Behavioural Advisory Group, Better Letter Initiative, Department of Health
- Editor, Findings from the Field, *Behavioural Public Policy*
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Behavioural and Experimental Finance*
- International Scientific Advisory Board, *Behavioural Research UK*

## MUIREANN LYNCH

- PhD Supervisor, NUIG, funded by MaREI
- Deputy Director, NexSys, SFI-funded Partnership Programme
- Editorial Board Member of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland

## BERTRAND MAÎTRE

- Member, Technical Advisory Group of Social Inclusion Division, Department of Social Protection
- Member, Microdata Access Network Group, Eurostat
- Member, Food Poverty Network, *safefood*

## LUCIE MARTIN

- Member, Advisory Group on Social and Behavioural Research for Environmental and Climate Policy, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
- Guest Lecturer, Behavioural Economics, University College Dublin
- Member, Expert Panel (Sludge and Administrative Burden Reduction), OECD

## SELINA McCOY

- Member, Consolidator Grants Assessment Panel, European Research Council
- Irish National Expert, Independent Experts

- on Education and Training, European Commission
- Member, National Disability Survey Steering Group, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Member, Cultures, Academic Values and Education (CAVE) Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin
- Member, Editorial Board, *Studies in Educational Evaluation*
- Member, Editorial Board, *Irish Educational Studies*
- Member, Editorial Board, *Ireland's Education Yearbook 2025*
- Member, Review Group for RACE (Reasonable Accommodations at the Certificate Examinations), State Examinations Commission
- Member, Conference Organising Committee for European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Annual Conference to be held in Trinity College Dublin 2026

## KEIRE MURPHY

- Columnist, *The Sunday Independent*
- Member, Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF), Ireland Programme Monitoring Committee

## FRANCES MCGINNITY

- Visiting Senior Fellow, Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE), London School of Economics
- Steering Group Member, ESRI/Shared Island Unit, Department of the Taoiseach, Research Programme on the Economic and Social Opportunities for Increased Cooperation on the Shared Island
- Member, Expert Panel, National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland
- Member, IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network) Standing Committee on Race, Racism and Discrimination (RACED)

## SEAMUS McGUINNESS

- Research Fellow, Institute of Labour Economics (IZA), Bonn
- Member of the scientific committee and spokesperson for the Global Labor Market Conference
- PhD examiner in 2024 for Napier University UK and Griffith University Australia

## KIERAN McQUINN

- Evaluator, University College Cork (UCC) PhD scholarship proposals
- Regular guest lecturer for the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI) BSc in Property Studies
- Member, External Advisory Board, University College Dublin School of Economics
- Member, Scientific Committee, EUROFRAME Conference

## GRETТА MOHAN

- Guest Editor, *Sustainability*
- Research and Support, *Making Connections*
- Contributor, *Loneliness Taskforce Research Network*
- Member, *Gréasán Gaeilge na hEarnála Poiblí*

## ANNE NOLAN

- Member, Research Data Governance Board for CSO Health Research Data Centre
- Member, Executive Committee, European Health Economics Association
- Steering Committee Member, The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA)
- Member, Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) Research and Practice Expert Advisory Group
- External Examiner, PhD viva, University of Manchester

## CONOR O'TOOLE

- Vice-Chair, Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Member, Supply and Delivery Advisory Group, Housing Agency
- Member, AIECE Research Network, European Research Institutes Group on Forecasting
- Committee Member, EUROFRAME Group of European Research Institutes
- Steering Group Member, ESRI/Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Research Programme
- Steering Group Member, ESRI/Department of Finance Research Programme
- Member, Steering Group, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Research Programme
- Programme Director, Joint MSc in Economic Policy, Trinity College Dublin
- Treasurer and Board Member, Irish Economic Association

## PAUL REDMOND

- Member of the Research Advisory Group for the Irish Electoral Commission
- Steering Committee Member, Basic Income for the Arts Pilot Scheme
- Technical Co-ordinator, TRAILS Horizon Europe Project
- Adjunct Professor, Trinity College Dublin
- Member of Advisory Panel for the School of Accounting, Economics and Finance, TU Dublin
- Managing Editor, *Economic and Social Review*

## DEIRDRE ROBERTSON

- Patient Correspondence Behavioural Advisory Group, Department of Health
- Member, Young Academy of Ireland, Royal Irish Academy

- Organising Committee, Irish Behavioural Science and Policy Network
- Research Advisory Committee, Cuan, The Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency
- Infant Feeding Survey Advisory Group, Department of Health

## **HELEN RUSSELL**

- Member, Equality Budgeting Expert Advisory Group, Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation
- Member, National Steering Group, European Social Survey
- Member, Technical Advisory Group on Social Inclusion, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
- Member, Conference Organising Committee for European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Annual Conference to be held in Trinity College Dublin 2026
- Member of the Research & Practice Advisory Panel of the Housing Agency 2025–2029
- Member of the Cuan Advisory Group for the Scoping of the National Domestic Violence Survey 2025

## **IULIA SIEDSCHLAG**

- Vice-Chair, Standing Committee for International Affairs, Royal Irish Academy
- Member Editorial Board, *Irish Studies in International Affairs*
- Academic Expert, EU-US Trade and Technology Council Stakeholder Assembly
- Expert for Ireland, OECD Project on Artificial Intelligence Diffusion
- Expert, UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab Expert on Economic Policy in Ireland, Economic Experts Survey, ifo Centre for Public Finance and Political Economy Munich and Institute for Swiss Economic Policy

- Member, PhD Faculty Council, University Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy
- Scientific Reviewer, The Anniversary Fund, Austrian Central Bank
- Scientific Reviewer, Austrian Science Fund
- Member, Digital Policy Group, Institute of International and European Affairs, Dublin
- Member, ESRI Representative, Productivity Liaison Group, Central Statistics Office Ireland
- Member, Irish Economic Association – Central Statistics Office Data Access Working Group

## **RACHEL SLAYMAKER**

- Steering Group Member, ESRI/Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Research Programme

## **EMER SMYTH**

- Committee Member, European Transitions in Youth Network
- Board Member, Jigsaw
- Member, Advisory Group, Coalition for Tech Apprenticeship Access and Inclusion
- ESRC Management Board, Centre for Longitudinal Studies

## **SHANE TIMMONS**

- Strategic Clean Air Communications Group, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
- Inclusive Employer Framework, Association for Higher Education Access & Disability (AHEAD)
- Mobility Hubs Advisory Group, Department of Transport
- Assessing administrative burdens as barriers to implementation of Ireland's 2021 Climate Action Plan (ABICAP), UCD (funded by the EPA)

- Sources of PM2.5 in the Air of Irish Towns, University of Galway (funded by the EPA)
- Understanding & Preventing Online Racism in Ireland; DCU (funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth)
- Associate Editor, *Environmental Psychology Research*
- Contributor, MSc in Environmental Psychology, Maynooth University
- Member, Advisory Group on Social and Behavioural Research for Environmental and Climate Policy, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
- Co-lead, Irish Economic Association's Behavioural Economics Network
- Member, Department of Health Population-Based Resource Allocation Technical Support Group
- Member, ALONE's Research, Evaluation and Policy Advisory Group
- Member, HSE Older Adults Health & Wellbeing Profile (OAHP) Data Advisory Group
- Member, National Health Services, Systems and Policy research – National Mirror Group (HSSP-NMG)
- Member, Implementation Forum of *Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy*

## ADELE WHELAN

## MIGUEL ANGEL TOVAR REAÑOS

- Research affiliate, Institute for Environmental, Resource and Spatial Economics, Department of Economics, University of Kiel
- Chair, Research Network on Fuel Poverty in Ireland

## DORA TUDA

- Member, EUROMOD Irish country team
- Member, Steering Group, IGEES National Childcare Scheme Review

## BRENDAN WALSH

- Member, Department of Health/Central Statistics Office Health Data Liaison Group
- Member, International Long-Term Care Policy Network (ILPN), London School of Economics
- Faculty member, Certificate in Principles of Integrated Care, delivered by the Integrated Care Academy, HSE, and Munster Technological University

- Member, Our Rural Future HEI and Research Network, Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
- Marie Jahoda Associate Fellow, Digital Futures at Work Research Centre, University of Sussex
- Economic Advisor, European and Employment Policy Observatory (EEPO), European Commission
- Lecturer, Applied Policy Evaluation module, MSc in Economic Policy, Trinity College Dublin
- Thesis Supervisor, MSc in Economic Policy, Trinity College Dublin
- Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) Research and Practice Expert Advisory Group

## AYKUT MERT YAKUT

- Associate Editor, *World Journal of Applied Economics*

# External Reviewers of ESRI Publications in 2024 and 2025

The following ESRI publication series are subject to review by external experts to ensure academic quality: ESRI Research Series, Macroeconomic Forecasting Series, QEC Special Articles and Research Notes, Budget Perspectives Series, Joint Publications, ESRI Working Papers, Reports to Commissioning Bodies.

## Economic Analysis

Dr Thomas Conefrey, Head of Function, Irish Economic Analysis Division, Central Bank of Ireland

Niall Conroy, Economist, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

Dr Dáithí Downey, Dublin City Council

Dr Sandra Flynn, Department of Management & Marketing, University of Limerick

Prof. Amy Healy, Associate Professor, Sociology, University of Limerick

Dr Daire Hooper, Lecturer in the School of Management, People and Organisation, TU Dublin

Prof. Edgar Morgenroth, Professor of Economics, DCU Business School

Gemma O'Reilly, Policy Analyst, National Economic and Social Council (NESC)

Dr Conor Teljeur, Chief Scientist, Health Information and Quality Authority

Dr Richard Waldron, Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast

## Social Research

Dr Cara Austenbourg, Assistant Professor, Landscape Studies and Environmental Policy, UCD

Dr Joanne Banks, Associate Professor, School of Education, Trinity College Dublin (TCD)

Dr Alicja Bobek, Senior Post-Doctoral Researcher, AIB Research Centre on Inclusive and Equitable Cultures (RINCE), TU Dublin

Cillian Bracken, practising barrister, Law Library

Dr Eavan Brady, Assistant Professor, Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin (TCD)

James Carroll, Senior Economist, Climate Change Unit, Central Bank

Dr Micheál Collins, Assistant Professor, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin (UCD)

Niall Conroy, Chief Economist, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

Dr Aedin Doris, Associate Professor, Economics, Maynooth University

Aoife Gavin, Senior Researcher, School of Health Sciences, University of Galway

Dr Patricia A Graczyk, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology in Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, University of Illinois

Dr Carmel Hannan, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Limerick

Prof. Morag Henderson, Professor of Sociology, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, University College London

Goretti Horgan, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy, School of Applied Social and Policy Science, Ulster University

Dr John Hyland, Technologist – Mixed Methods Social Science, Rural Economy & Development Programme, Teagasc

---

Prof. John Fitzgerald, Adjunct Professor, Economics, Trinity College Dublin

---

Dr Emma Farrell, Assistant Professor in Mental Health, Department of Psychology, Maynooth University

---

Prof. Heather Joshi, Emeritus Professor of Economic and Developmental Demography, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, University College London

---

Dr Stephan Kope, Associate Professor, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, UCD

---

Dr Markus Klein, Professor of Human Development and Education Policy, Strathclyde Institute of Education, University of Strathclyde

---

Dr Therese McDonnell, Research Fellow, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD

---

Prof. Hannah McGee, Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Royal College of Surgeons

---

Prof. Duncan McVicar, Professor, Queen's Business School, Queen's University Belfast

---

Prof. Morag Henderson, Professor of Sociology, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, University College London

---

Prof. Philip O'Connell, Emeritus Professor of Applied Social Science, Geary Institute, UCD

---

Dr Nat O'Connor, Assistant Professor, School of Social Policy Social Work and Social Justice, UCD

---

Dr Cormac O'Dea, Assistant Professor, School of Economics, Yale University, US Dr Mark Regan, Senior Economist, Parliamentary Budget Office

---

Dr Megan Reynolds, Postdoctoral Researcher, DCU Anti-Bullying Centre, DCU

---

Dr Barra Roantree, Assistant Professor, Economics, Trinity College Dublin

---

Prof. Martin Ruhs, Professor of Migration Studies, European University Institute

---

Dr Jet Saunders, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science, London School of Economics

---

Dr Sarah Sheridan, Research Officer, Focus Ireland

---

Prof. Jan Sorensen, Professor of Health Economics, School of Population Health, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI)

---

Dr Iva Tasseva, Assistant Professor, Social Policy, London School of Economics

---

Dr Valentina Tonei, Lecturer in Economics, Department of Economics, University of Southampton

---

Dr Brian Turner, Senior Lecturer, Cork University Business School, University College Cork (UCC)

---

Dr Anne Marcus-Quinn, Associate Professor, School of English, Irish and Communication, University of Limerick

---

Deirdre Murphy, Economist, The Housing Agency

---

# Staff List as of 31 December 2025

## Director

Martina Lawless

## Economic Analysis

Delia Agostinelli

City Ahmed

Marta Alvaro-Taus

Conor Banahan

Alan Barrett

Adele Bergin

Luke Brosnan

Philip Carthy

Daniel Cassidy

John Curtis (Head of Division)

Kelly de Bruin

Çağaçan Değer

Seraphim Dempsey

Simachew Dessalew

Kate Devane

Anne Devlin

Luke Doyle

Juan Duran Vanegas

Paul Egan

Andrés Estevez

Kirsten Everett

Niall Farrell

Elish Kelly

Lorcan Kelly

Janez Kren

Clement Kweku Kyei

Muireann Lynch

Samuel McArdle

Seamus McGuinness

Kieran McQuinn

Aykut Mert Yakut

Gretta Mohan

Rafael Nunes Teixeira

Conor O'Toole

Donal O'Shea

Paul Redmond

Diane Sheehy

Iulia Siedschlag

Rachel Slaymaker

Efthymios Smyrniotis

Elisa Staffa

Miguel Angel Tovar Reaños

Chi Tran

Shiwani Varal

Anita Vollmer

Brendan Wade

Adele Whelan

## Social Research

Maryam Afzal

Anousheh Alamir

Shahd Almodallal

Maxime Bercholz

Aoife Brick

Daniel Capistrano de Oliveira

Evan Carron-Kee

Sheelah Connolly

Cíara Dalton

Merike Darmody

Karina Doorley

Sean Feeney

Celine Fox

Michele Gubello

Ada Sophia Hahn

Theano Kakoulidou

Claire Keane

Aislin Lavin

Maria Lee

Pete Lunn

Bertrand Maître

Lucie Martin

Selina McCoy

Frances McGinnity

Ellen McHugh

Anna Moya Ponce

Cian Mowlds

Keire Murphy

Anne Nolan

Richard O'Shea

Emma Quinn

Deirdre Robertson

Helen Russell (Head of Division)

Siddhant Seth

Adam Joachim Shier

Agathe Simon

Eva Slevin

Emer Smyth

Shane Timmons

Dora Tuda

Brendan Walsh

Iris Wohnsiedler

Francis Wolfe

## Corporate Resources

Eleanor Bannerton (Head of Strategic Planning, Communications and Operations)

Amanda Brennan (Head of Finance)

Claire Buckley (Head of Human Resources)

Sarah Burns

Bernice Clancy

Liz Coyle

Louise Creagh

Lliana D'Emidio

Julianne Flynn

David Gorman (Acting Head of IT)

Ellie Halloran

Adrienne Jinks

Ross Kelleher

Francis McEvoy

Ella Mozal

Josh Nevin

Hugh Nolan (Head of Governance and Corporate Resources)

Clare O'Neill (Head of IT)

Fiona O'Sullivan

Fiona Owens

Fionnuala Quinn

Stephen Sammon

Polina Savchenko

LeAnnie Wilson



Speakers and attendees at an ESRI Corporate Members Breakfast Briefing. LTR: Sean O'Driscoll (Chair, ESRI Council), Catherine Keogh (Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Kerry Group), Paschal Donohoe (Former Minister for Finance) and Prof Martina Lawless (Director, ESRI).

## Whitaker Patrons and Corporate Members as of 31 December 2025

### Whitaker Patrons

EirGrid

ESB

Google

### Corporate Members

AbbVie

ABP Food Group

Aer Lingus

Allied Irish Banks (AIB)

An Garda Síochána

An Post

Arup

Avolon

Bord Bia

Bord Gáis Energy

Bus Éireann

Central Bank of Ireland

Clare County Council

Coimisiún na Meán

Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC)

Cork City Council

Cork County Council

Davy

Deloitte

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Department of Defence

Department of Education

Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (DETE)

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT)

Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	Kerry Group
Department of Justice	KPMG
Department of the Taoiseach	Limerick City and County Council
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)
Department of Transport	Louth County Council
Dublin Bus	Malin
Dublin City Council	Mason Hayes & Curran LLP
Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council	Mater University Hospital
Enterprise Ireland	Matheson LLP
EY	Meath County Council
Fáilte Ireland	Mercury Engineering
FBD Insurance	Musgrave Group
Higher Education Authority (HEA)	National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA)
Health Service Executive (HSE)	Norbrook Laboratories
HubSpot	OHM Group
Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail)	Permanent TSB (PTSB)
Ibec	PwC
ICON plc	Revenue Commissioners
IDA Ireland	RSA Insurance Ireland
Institute of Bankers	Schroders Greencoat
InterTradelreland	SIPTU
Irish Farmers' Association (IFA)	St James's Hospital
Irish Institute of Purchasing and Materials Management (IIP)	Tesco Ireland
Irish Life	Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
Jacobs	Uisce Éireann
John Sisk & Son Ltd	Workday
Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine	
Kerry County Council	

## Contact the ESRI

---

The Economic and Social Research Institute  
Whitaker Square  
Sir John Rogerson's Quay  
Dublin 2  
D02 K138

---

+353 1 8632000  
admin@esri.ie

Online: ISSN: 2990-8078  
Print: ISSN: 2990-806X