

REVIEW OF RESEARCH 2020



Informed policy for a better Ireland

About the ESRI

The Economic and Social Research Institute is an independent research institute working towards a vision of **'Informed policy for a better Ireland'**. The ESRI seeks to support sustainable economic growth and social progress in Ireland by providing a robust knowledge base capable of providing effective solutions to public policy challenges.

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 to support the policymaking process in Ireland. 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 brings together leading experts from a variety of disciplines who work together to break new ground across a number of research initiatives. The expertise of its researchers is recognised in public life and researchers are represented on the boards and advisory committees of several national and international organisations.

ESRI researchers uphold the highest academic standards. The quality of the Institute's research output is guaranteed by a rigorous peer review process. Research is published only when it meets the required standards and practices. Research quality has also been assessed as part of two peer reviews of the Institute, in 2010 and 2016.

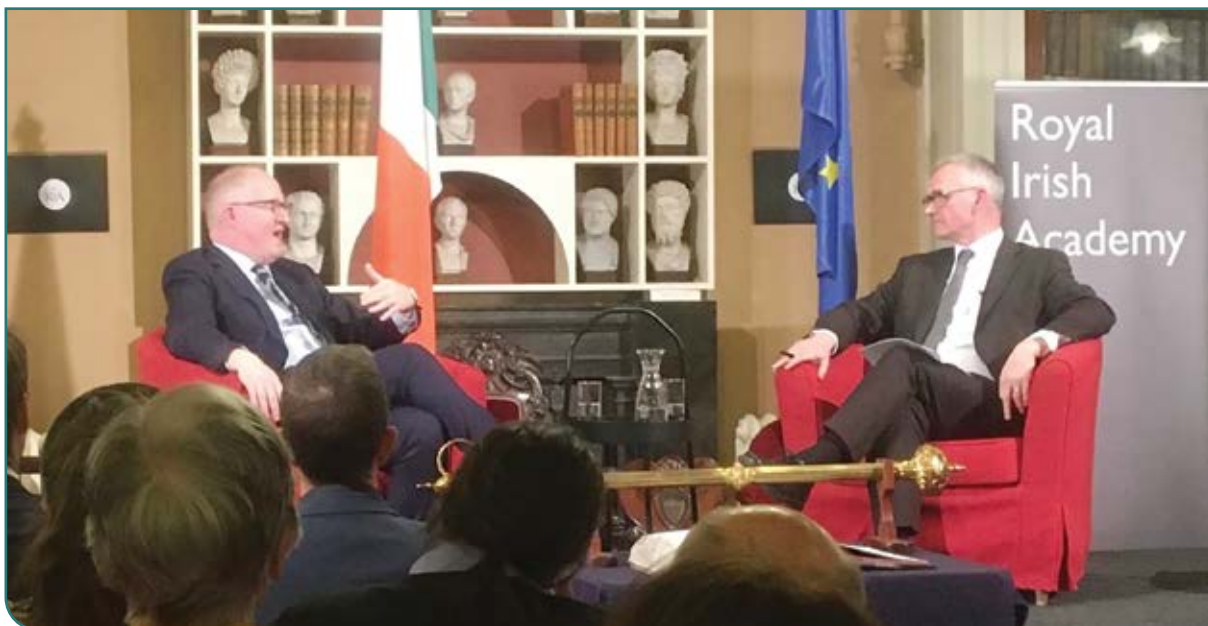
ESRI research findings are disseminated widely in books, journal articles and reports. Reports published by the ESRI are available to download, free of charge, from its website. ESRI staff members communicate research findings at regular conferences and seminars, which provide a platform for representatives from government, civil society and academia to discuss key findings from recently published studies and ongoing research.

The ESRI is a company limited by guarantee, answerable to its members and governed by a Council, comprising a minimum of 11 members and a maximum of 14 members, who represent a cross-section of ESRI members: academia, civil service, state agencies, businesses and civil society.

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(L to R) Philip Lane (European Central Bank) and Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI) in conversation at the Royal Irish Academy on 14 February 2020.



(l to R) Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI) and Michael McGrath TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform meeting in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform on 23 September 2020.

Introduction

The ESRI's annual Review of Research is an opportunity for us to describe the important work of the Institute as we strive to achieve our vision of 'informed policy for a better Ireland'. The ESRI performs a unique role in Irish public life in producing high-quality, independent research which functions as a key input into evidence-informed policy-making.

The extent of public policy challenges and the need for evidence were never more evident than in 2020 as the world grappled with the COVID crisis. At the time of writing, the crisis continues although with hope on the horizon as the vaccine programme gathers pace.

From early in 2020, the Institute re-oriented its research agenda and worked to contribute to the broader understanding of the impacts of the crisis and the policies needed to mitigate those impacts. In the case of some of our research programmes, the inputs into the policy sphere were very direct. For example, the Health team supported the work of the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) through their work on modelling the demands on the healthcare system arising from COVID. Our Behavioural Research Unit also supported NPHE, for example, by developing clearer insights into how public health messaging could be most effectively communicated. Our Tax, Pensions and Welfare team undertook analysis of the costs and distributional impacts of the new COVID-related payments.

Other strands of research also provided important insights into how the crisis was impacting upon different groups. For example, the challenges for disadvantaged children, younger workers and women all featured in ESRI research and the associated reports will help to direct policy in the coming months and years as we work to redress the negative impacts of the crisis. In addition, the macroeconomic impacts were assessed in the four issues of the Quarterly Economic Commentary.

We re-directed our research agenda rapidly in 2020 and, like many others, changed our working practices overnight to a remote model. However, we also maintained the core features of our work and I will mention just two here.

Firstly, our commitment to academic rigour was maintained. A rigorous peer review process guarantees the quality of the Institute's research output and we publish work only when it meets the highest standards. Our researchers also publish in international peer-reviewed journals, thereby demonstrating that our work measures up to top international standards.

Secondly, the Institute remained independent, with its work free of any expressed ideology or political position. We publish all research reaching the appropriate academic standard, irrespective of its findings or who funds the research.

As we look ahead to widespread vaccination and the re-opening of Ireland's economy and society, the ESRI will remain committed to supporting informed public debate by promoting the importance of high-quality research, by making our research widely available and by communicating the results in a variety of public fora.

Before concluding, I want to thank our funders, our members and our research partners for their valuable support. I would like to acknowledge in particular the grant provided by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. I would also like to thank the numerous government departments, state agencies and other organisations that commissioned the research described throughout this document.



Professor Alan Barrett
Director of the ESRI

The Year in Numbers

Publications



Oireachtas

ESRI researchers addressed Oireachtas committees 2 times.



The ESRI was mentioned in Oireachtas proceedings 183 times.

Written answers 49
+ Committee mentions 54
+ 78 Dáil debates
+ 11 Seanad debates



Media



radio and television interviews

Events

35
(29 online)



Research programmes and projects

New research programmes and projects:

54



Completed research programmes and projects:

17



Ongoing research programmes and projects:

83





ESRI CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC SEMINARS 2020

CONFERENCES, WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS

- Value of the local environment for health and wellbeing: planning implications, January
- Growing Up in Ireland data workshop, January, March, September
- Attracting and retaining migrant-led start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs from outside the EU, January
- Environmental policy, competitiveness and green growth: International and Irish evidence, February
- The potential costs and distributional effect of COVID-19 related unemployment in Ireland, April
- Minimum wage policy in Ireland, May
- MaREI's 9th Annual Energy and Climate Policy Research Seminar, May
- The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on consumption and indirect taxes in Ireland, May
- National statuses for migrants in need of protection: Ireland and the EU, May
- Origin and integration: A study of migrants in the 2016 Irish Census, June
- Child poverty in Ireland and the pandemic recession, July
- Income adequacy in retirement, July
- Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for policy in relation to children and young people, July
- Launch of new Growing Up in Ireland report: 'Growing Up in Ireland: The Lives of 17/18-Year-Olds', July
- Evaluation of SICAP pre-employment supports, September
- UCD-ESRI energy policy research conference, September
- International practices on civics and language requirements linked to naturalisation, September
- 'Has the Gender Revolution Stalled?' – 2020 Geary Lecture with Paula England, Professor of Sociology, NYU, October
- ESRI post-Budget briefing, October
- Student and school leader experience of Educate Together second-level, October
- Growing Up in Ireland 12th Annual Research Conference, October
- Supporting young people's sexual health and wellbeing through evidence and practice, November
- Social transfers and deprivation in Ireland: A study of cash and non-cash payments tied to housing, childcare, and primary health care services, November
- Environment, health & wellbeing conference 2020, November
- Arts and cultural participation among 17-year-olds, November
- Gender balance at work: a study of an Irish Civil Service department, December
- Supporting integration: access to citizenship in Ireland and the EU, December
- Monitoring migrant integration in Ireland and COVID-19, December

ESRI PUBLIC SEMINAR SERIES

- Estimated human capital externalities in an endogenous growth framework, January
- The impact of social prescribing on general practice use, February
- Good schools or good students? The importance of selectivity for school rankings, March
- The regional effect of Australia's Consumer Directed Care model for older people, November
- Age, morbidity, or something else? A residual approach using microdata to measure the impact of technological progress on healthcare expenditure, December



(L to R) Paul Gosling, (Special Advisor to the SDLP); Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI); Matthew O'Toole (SDLP MLA); and Seamus McGuinness (ESRI) meeting in Stormont on 2 September 2020.



Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI) at the EMN Ireland/Department of Justice conference titled 'Attracting and Retaining Migrant-led Start-ups and Innovative Entrepreneurs from outside the EU' held on 29 January 2020



RESEARCH AREAS

A key feature of research in the ESRI is its multidisciplinary and collaborative nature. ESRI researchers are involved in cutting-edge research projects, inspired by an international and vibrant team across multiple disciplines. The research outputs contribute to the national and international debate on major issues for society.

In 2020 the Institute's research agenda was organised in the following 11 areas:







Behavioural Science





Behavioural Science



RESEARCH AREA COORDINATOR:

Pete Lunn




OTHERS WORKING IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:

Deirdre Robertson, Shane Timmons, Kieran Mohr, Hannah Julianne, Ciarán Lavin and Martina Barjaková

Highlights

- A review of evidence for using behavioural science to fight COVID-19, which included an extensive literature search of relevant behavioural interventions and studies of crises, was published at the start of the pandemic in Ireland.
- An experimental pre-test of *COVID Tracker*, Ireland's COVID-19 contact-tracing app, was carried out before its launch, with a large sample of smartphone users.



The Behavioural Science research area uses controlled laboratory, online and field experiments to investigate decisions and behaviours across multiple policy areas. For the Behavioural Research Unit (BRU), 2020 was dominated by work on COVID-19

At the beginning of the pandemic, the team produced a rapid review of relevant evidence, ranging from tests of practical interventions designed to increase handwashing to how best to galvanise support for collective public action. This review was the first international paper to be published on how to use behavioural science to support the COVID-19 response.

Pete Lunn, the head of the BRU, joined the Behavioural Change Subgroup of NPHET, which commissioned a series of research studies from the team, funded by the **Department of Health**. The studies were designed to investigate different aspects of the public response to the pandemic. This stream of work was turned around very rapidly, using online data collection. It led to papers on: testing effective ways to promote social distancing, measuring public expectations, trialling communications to support people needing to self-isolate, measuring public understanding of the Test-and-Trace system, comparing public and expert perceptions of the riskiness of different social activities, and gauging the reliability of self-reports of compliance with public health guidelines.

One additional study involved pre-testing different versions of *COVID Tracker*, Ireland's contact-tracing app. The online study randomised participants to download one of eight different versions of the app, which varied in their 'call to action' and description of how the app worked and stored data.

The results demonstrated better public engagement with some versions. These findings fed directly into the design and successful launch of the app.

In addition to work on COVID-19, the BRU completed an experimental study, funded by the **OECD**, that involved undertaking a laboratory experiment in Ireland and Chile. The study showed that consumers in both a developed and an emerging economy were vulnerable to exploitation through personalised pricing (varying prices charged to different customers based on background characteristics or internet search histories), regardless of the strength of online regulatory disclosures.

The BRU also completed an online pre-test of explanatory 'primers' designed to explain time-of-use (ToU) tariffs to residential electricity consumers, funded by the **Commission for the Regulation of Utilities**. The study demonstrated generational differences in how consumers respond to the potential financial and environmental benefits of ToU tariffs. It also showed that presenting tariffs as graphical clocks made consumers more likely to make mistakes. The findings are being used to assist consumers during the rollout of smart meters across the country.



Journal Articles

Can Visual Cues to Portion Size Reduce the Number of Portions Consumed? Two Randomized Controlled Trials, *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, Deirdre Robertson, Ciarán Lavin, Pete Lunn.

Demographic variation in active consumer behaviour: On-line search for retail broadband services, *Heliyon*, Vol 6, Issue 7, July 2020, e04478, Elsevier, Philip Carthy, Pete Lunn, Seán Lyons.

Experimental evidence for the effects of emissions charges and efficiency information on consumer car choices, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, Vol. 254, May 2020, 120140, Áine Ní Choisdealbha, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn.

Green and simple: Disclosures on eco-labels interact with situational constraints in consumer choice, *Journal of Consumer Policy*, Vol. 43, 2020, pp. 699–722, Springer, Áine Ní Choisdealbha, Pete Lunn.

It depends on how you ask: measuring bias in population surveys of compliance with COVID-19 public health guidance, *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 2020, BMJ Publishing Group Ltd, Shane Timmons, Frances McGinnity, Cameron Belton, Martina Barjaková, Pete Lunn.

Motivating social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic: An online experiment, *Social Science & Medicine*, Elsevier, Pete Lunn, Shane Timmons, Cameron Belton, Martina Barjaková, Hannah Julianne, Ciarán Lavin.

Nudger beware: Diagnosis precedes remedy, *Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy*, Vol. 3, Special Issue, pp. 23–26, Pete Lunn.

Official advice improves mortgage-holders' perceptions of switching: Experimental evidence, *Behavioural Public Policy*, Shane Timmons, Martina Barjaková, Terence McElvaney, Pete Lunn.

Predicting farms' noncompliance with regulations on nitrate pollution, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, Pete Lunn, Seán Lyons, Martin Murphy.

Rainfall, population density and voter turnout, *Electoral Studies*, Vol. 64, April 2020, 102128, Abian Garcia Rodriguez, Paul Redmond.

Smart choices? An experimental study of smart meters and time-of-use tariffs in Ireland, *Energy Policy*, Vol. 140, May 2020, 111243, Cameron Belton, Pete Lunn.

Using Behavioral Science to help fight the Coronavirus, *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2020, Pete Lunn, Cameron Belton, Ciarán Lavin, Féidhlim McGowan, Shane Timmons, Deirdre Robertson.

Using decision aids to support self-isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, *Psychology & Health*, Routledge, Pete Lunn, Shane Timmons, Hannah Julianne, Cameron Belton, Martina Barjaková, Ciarán Lavin, Féidhlim McGowan.



Reports and Other Publications

Public expectations for lifting COVID-19 restrictions, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 88, ESRI, Dublin, Cameron Belton, Hannah Julianne, Shane Timmons, Martina Barjaková, Ciarán Lavin, Féidhlim McGowan, Pete Lunn.

Public understanding and perceptions of the COVID-19 Test-and-Trace system, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 96, ESRI, Dublin, Shane Timmons, Martina Barjaková, Deirdre Robertson, Cameron Belton, Pete Lunn.



ESRI Research Bulletins

CCPC advice helps consumers judge mortgage offers, but potentially serious misunderstandings remain, ESRI, Dublin, Shane Timmons, Martina Barjaková, Terence McElvaney, Pete Lunn.

Consumers struggle to choose new types of electricity tariffs, but comparison tools can help, ESRI, Dublin, Cameron Belton, Pete Lunn.

Green and simple: Effective eco-labelling for busy consumers, ESRI, Dublin, Áine Ní Choisdealbha, Pete Lunn.

How much do survey estimates of compliance with COVID-19 advice depend on how the question is asked?, ESRI, Dublin, Shane Timmons, Frances McGinnity, Cameron Belton, Martina Barjaková, Pete Lunn.

Online search for retail broadband services: Who searches most?, ESRI, Dublin, Philip Carthy, Pete Lunn, Seán Lyons.

Portion size markings on snack packaging influence how much people eat, ESRI, Dublin, Deirdre Robertson, Ciarán Lavin, Pete Lunn.

Predicting which farms are most likely to breach nitrate pollution regulations, ESRI, Dublin, Pete Lunn, Seán Lyons, Martin Murphy.



ESRI Working Papers

Behavioural pre-testing of COVID Tracker, Ireland's contact tracing app, ESRI, Dublin, Hannah Julianne, Ciarán Lavin, Cameron Belton, Martina Barjaková, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn.

Eliciting trade-offs between water charges and service benefits in Scotland, ESRI, Dublin, Cameron Belton, Ciarán Lavin, Pete Lunn.

Is it riskier to meet 100 people outdoors or 14 people indoors? Comparing public and expert perceptions of COVID-19 risk, ESRI, Dublin, Shane Timmons, Cameron Belton, Deirdre Robertson, Martina Barjaková, Ciarán Lavin, Hannah Julianne, Pete Lunn.

Motivating social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic: An online experiment, ESRI, Dublin, Pete Lunn, Shane Timmons, Cameron Belton, Martina Barjaková, Hannah Julianne, Ciarán Lavin.

Using behavioural science to help fight the Coronavirus, ESRI, Dublin, Pete Lunn, Cameron Belton, Ciarán Lavin, Féidhlim McGowan, Shane Timmons, Deirdre Robertson.

Using decision aids to support self-isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, ESRI, Dublin, Pete Lunn, Shane Timmons, Hannah Julianne, Cameron Belton, Martina Barjaková, Ciarán Lavin, Féidhlim McGowan.





Competitiveness, Trade and FDI



Competitiveness, Trade and FDI



RESEARCH AREA COORDINATOR:

Iulia Siedschlag



OTHER COLLEAGUES WORKING IN THIS AREA IN 2020 INCLUDED:

Mattia Di Ubaldo, Martina
Lawless, Stefano Meneto
and Weijie Yan

Highlights

- The speed of government interventions to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic was mainly determined by countries' health system capacity, demographic structure and economic factors. Boosting the health system capacity would be important to reduce the cost of lockdown measures aimed at containing a pandemic.
- Private investment in green technologies and innovations with environmental benefits could improve the competitiveness of enterprises in the medium term.

ESRI research in this area focuses primarily on structural and microeconomic factors and policies underlying competitiveness and economic growth in Ireland and other European countries in the context of international economic integration

In 2020 research in this area addressed the following themes: government interventions to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic; the effects of Brexit on inputs from Northern Ireland on Irish exports to the EU; the effects of green investments and innovations on enterprise competitiveness; the impact of public R&D grants on the performance of awardees.

Research on COVID-19 examined the speed with which governments across the world introduced administrative measures to contain the spread of the pandemic. The results indicated that governments in countries with a weaker health system capacity and in countries with a larger share of elderly populations were faster to start lockdown measures. The highest level of containment measures was reached at a slower speed in larger and in more open economies. Taken together, the results suggested that boosting the health system capacity would be important to reduce the cost of lockdown measures aimed at containing a pandemic.

Research funded by the **Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland** examined the effects that Brexit could have on inputs to production in Ireland that are sourced in Northern Ireland. Detailed trade data was used to map the Northern Ireland inputs into Irish exports to the EU, other countries the EU has a free-trade agreement with and the rest of the world. The results highlighted a potential risk to supply-chain integration on the island that could arise if Brexit were to result in a change in how these inputs were classified by other countries engaged in free-trade agreements

with the EU. Further research on Brexit examined the overall trade exposure of Ireland and the particular customs status accorded to Northern Ireland under the Withdrawal Agreement.

Research funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency** found that investments in equipment for pollution control and in equipment linked to cleaner technologies improved in the medium term a range of enterprise performance outcomes, including their output, employment, productivity, export intensity and energy intensity. The effects were found to be stronger for enterprises that were larger, foreign-owned and more productive, and in low-tech industries such as the food industry. Further research in this area found that enterprises that introduced innovations with environmental benefits improved their export participation.

A study commissioned by the **Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation** found that grants from the Enterprise Ireland Research, Development and Innovation Programme have boosted the innovation and economic performance of awardees. Five years after receiving R&D grants, the awardees recorded substantial increases in their R&D expenditures, employment, output and export sales.



Journal Articles

Investment in knowledge-based capital and productivity: Firm-level evidence from a small open economy, *Review of Income and Wealth*, Mattia Di Ubaldo, Iulia Siedschlag.

Brexit and trade on the island of Ireland, *Revue de l'OFCE*, 167 (2020/3), Martina Lawless.



Reports and Other Publications

Northern Ireland inputs to Republic of Ireland EU FTA exports: Report for the Northern Ireland Department of the Economy, Northern Ireland Department of the Economy, Belfast, Martina Lawless.



(L to R) Keynote speaker Laura Burke (Director General, Environmental Protection Agency) and Iulia Siedschlag (ESRI) at the conference titled 'Environmental policy, competitiveness and green growth: International and Irish evidence' held on 21 February 2020.



ESRI Working Papers

Containing the COVID-19 pandemic: What determined the speed of Government interventions?, ESRI, Dublin, Iulia Siedschlag, Weijie Yan.

Green investments and firm performance, ESRI, Dublin, Iulia Siedschlag, Weijie Yan.

Green innovations and export performance, ESRI, Dublin, Stefano Meneto, Iulia Siedschlag.

Go ahead and trade: The effect of uncertainty removal in the EU's GSP scheme, ESRI, Dublin, Ingo Borchert, Mattia Di Ubaldo.

Product line extensions under the threat of entry: evidence from the UK pharmaceuticals market, ESRI, Dublin, Farasat A. S. Bokhari, Weijie Yan.

What drives firms' decisions to spend on environmental protection?, ESRI, Dublin, Iulia Siedschlag, Weijie Yan.

Taken together, the results suggested that boosting the health system capacity would be important to reduce the cost of lockdown measures aimed at containing a pandemic.





Education



Education



RESEARCH AREA COORDINATORS:

Selina McCoy,
Emer Smyth



OTHERS WORKING IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:

Georgiana Mihut,
Gretta Mohan,
Merike Darmody,
Ciarán Mac Domhnaill,
Bertrand Maître, Seán Lyons
and Eamonn Carroll

Highlights

- The innovation shown by teachers and learners during the pandemic shows the significant potential of digital technology to improve how students learn at second level.
- The use of digital video in initial teacher education showed that the digital video footage was highly supportive in pre-service teachers' weekly self-reflection and in developing their self-reflective practice.

The 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 2020 focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for second-level students, policy and provision for students with additional needs, the experiences of students in Educate Together schools, the role of schools in shaping health behaviours, arts and cultural participation, and the role of digital technologies in learning and wellbeing.

In collaboration with researchers in the Energy, Environment, and Infrastructure research area and as part of a programme funded by the **Department of Environment, Climate and Communications**, and **ComReg**, researchers surveyed and interviewed second-level principals to understand the challenges for schools during the first period of COVID-related school closures. The report showed the impact of inequality in terms of digital access and socio-economic disadvantage. A review of research, as part of a research programme with the **Department of Children, Equality, Diversity, Integration and Youth**, highlighted the impact of the pandemic on the broader wellbeing of children and young people.

Inclusion has been an important strand of ESRI education research, with new primary research for the **National Disability Authority** reviewing the provision across countries of specialist community living and personal assistance supports for people with disabilities. Work was initiated for the **National Council for Special Education** on two large-scale studies: an evaluation of the School Inclusion Model and a longitudinal study on post-school pathways among young people with special educational needs. Both studies will

be important in shaping provision for students with additional needs in primary and second-level schools, and across the post-school landscape. Funded by **Educate Together**, new research on second-level schools in this sector pointed to the inclusivity of their school climates and their focus on student-centred learning, but highlighted some challenges given that many schools are located in temporary premises.

A number of studies drew on secondary analysis of Growing Up in Ireland data, including research on the role of early mobile-phone ownership in shaping child development and gender stereotyping in perceptions of boys' and girls' maths performance. As part of a research programme with the **HSE** undertaken with a researcher in the Health area, two reports showed the influence of schools on the likelihood of young people engaging in different health behaviours (such as drinking, smoking and exercise/diet) and on their access to information about sex and relationships. Another study, funded by the **Arts Council**, showed the way in which the school attended influenced 17-year-olds' access to curricular and extracurricular arts and culture, with DEIS schools playing an important role in bridging the social gap.

Education researchers continued to be involved in a range of work for the **European Commission**, including critically assessing education policy developments as part of the **Directorate General for Education and Culture's Network of Independent Experts in Education and Training**.



Journal Articles

Secondary school subjects and gendered STEM enrollment in higher education in Germany, Ireland, and Scotland, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, Vol. 61, Issue 1, 2020, pp. 59-78, Marita Jacob, Cristina Iannelli, Adriana Duta, Emer Smyth.

Forbidden fruit? Student views on the use of tablet PCs in education, *Technology, Pedagogy and Education*, Vol. 29, Issue 3, 2020, pp. 347-360, Bryan Coyne, Selina McCoy.

Post-secondary outcomes of innovative high schools: The Big Picture Longitudinal Study, *Teachers College Record*, Vol. 122, No. 8, 2020, Karen D. Arnold, Georgiana Mihut.

Secondary school transition for students with special educational needs in Ireland, *European Journal of Special Needs Education*, Vol. 35, Issue 2, 2020, pp. 154-170, Selina McCoy, Michael Shevlin, Richard Rose.

Special education reforms in Ireland: changing systems, changing schools, *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, Neil Kenny, Selina McCoy, Georgiana Mihut.

Video-based self-reflection among pre-service teachers in Ireland: A qualitative study, *Education and Information Technologies*, 2020, Selina McCoy, Aoife Lynam.



Reports and Other Publications

Arts and cultural participation among 17-year-olds, ESRI Research Series No. 103, ESRI, Dublin, Emer Smyth.

Examining the experiences of students, teachers and leaders at Educate Together second-level schools, ESRI Research Series No. 113, ESRI, Dublin, Selina McCoy, Georgiana Mihut.

Learning for all? Second-level education in Ireland during COVID-19, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 92, ESRI, Dublin, Gretta Mohan, Selina McCoy, Eamonn Carroll, Georgiana Mihut, Seán Lyons, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill.



Chapters in Books and Reports

Educational inequalities: the role of schools, Nele McElvany, Heinz Günter Holtappels, Fani Laueremann, Aileen Edele, Annika Ohle-Peters (eds.), *Against the Odds – (In)Equity in Education and Educational Systems*, Waxmann, Münster, Emer Smyth.

Growing Up in Ireland: Insights on inclusion in schools, Brian Mooney (ed.), *Ireland's Yearbook of Education 2019–2020*, Education Matters, Dublin, Georgiana Mihut, Selina McCoy.

How should second-level schools respond in an era of digital learning?, Brian Mooney (ed.), *Ireland's Yearbook of Education 2019–2020*, Education Matters, Dublin, Ann Marcus-Quinn, Triona Hourigan, Selina McCoy.

Insights from the Youthreach evaluation, Brian Mooney (ed.), *Ireland's Yearbook of Education 2019–2020*, Education Matters, Dublin, Selina McCoy.

Leaving Certification, Miriam E. David & Marilyn J. Amey (eds.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Higher Education*, Emer Smyth.



ESRI Research Bulletins

Shaping educational expectations among 13-year-olds and their parents, ESRI, Dublin, Emer Smyth.



ESRI Working Papers

Academic and socio-emotional outcomes of young people with special educational needs and the role of parental educational expectations, ESRI, Dublin, Georgiana Mihut, Selina McCoy, Bertrand Maître.

Choosing differently? College application behaviour and the persistence of educational advantage, ESRI, Dublin, Judith Delaney, Paul Devereux.

How gender and prior disadvantage predict performance in college, ESRI, Dublin, Judith Delaney, Paul Devereux.

The effect of high school rank in English and math on college major choice, ESRI, Dublin, Judith Delaney, Paul Devereux.



Other Papers

Gender stereotyping in parents' and teachers' perceptions of boys' and girls' mathematics performance in Ireland, UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy Discussion Paper 202010, ESRI, Dublin, Selina McCoy, Delma Byrne, Pat O'Connor.





Energy, Environment and Infrastructure



Energy, Environment and Infrastructure



RESEARCH AREA COORDINATORS:

Seán Lyons and John Curtis



OTHERS WORKING IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:

Philip Carthy, Kelly De Bruin, Desta Fitiwi, Ankita Gaur, Gianluca Grilli, Dana Kirchem, Manuel Tong Koecklin, Genaro Longoria, Muireann Á. Lynch, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, Eoin Monaghan, Anne Nolan, Arya Pillai, Miguel Tovar Reaños, Constantine Spandagos, Aykut Mert Yakut, Shiyu Yan and Tong Zhu

Highlights

- Visiting green space is associated with positive outcomes for general, cardiovascular, and mental health. The marginal health impacts are greatest at relatively low visit levels. For instance, increasing the number of green-space visits to just once per month is associated with a 4-percentage point increase in the probability of experiencing good mental health and wellbeing.
- The COVID-19 crisis is estimated to have reduced 2020's GDP by approximately 13 per cent, whereas, from an environmental perspective, economy-wide CO2 emissions are expected to decrease by 9.5 per cent. These reductions are anticipated to reverse as the pandemic is brought under control.

Research in this area is funded through several multiannual research programmes

Energy and Climate research is funded by the **Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), Commission for Regulation of Utilities, ESB, Ervia, Gas Networks Ireland, EirGrid, SSE Ireland, Viridian, Terra Solar, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI),** and the **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland**. Research related to the environment, including fisheries and water quality, is funded by the **Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage (DHLGH), the Environmental Protection Agency, and Inland Fisheries Ireland**. Research on electronic communications networks and services is funded by the **Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)** and **DECC**.

The ESRI's Research Programme on Climate, Energy and the Economy focused on an analysis of the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on Irish emissions, the economy and households, and investigating the impacts of transition to a low-carbon economy on labour and employment.

The Energy Research Programme spans market design and regulation, energy services, energy infrastructure, and the interface with society and the environment. Research during 2020 found that regulations limiting the expansion of onshore wind generation (e.g. set-back distances) leads to relatively low increases in overall system-level costs, though there are substantial regional variations. In terms of public acceptance of energy infrastructure, attitudinal factors shape people's preferences more consistently than any of the socio-demographic characteristics. The wastewater treatment sector is among the largest electricity consumers in the economy, and ongoing research finds that integrated management of both the electricity and wastewater systems could yield substantial

benefit for the combined systems. Other research includes the profitability of battery storage in electricity markets, the accuracy of wind energy forecasts, and a literature review on heat pumps in the context of a low-carbon transition.

The research programme on Environmental Economics, funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, was renewed for a further two-year period in June 2020. An EPA research report was published in November, summarising the results of the research conducted over the period 2018–2020. Additional papers on the association between rents and commuting, on the links between public park attributes, visits and health, and on the effects of charges and efficiency information on consumer car choices were also published in 2020.

A new three-year phase began of our Communications research programme funded by **DECC** and **ComReg**. A study was conducted during the first COVID-19 school-building closures, starting in March 2020, to investigate how digital connectivity, applications and devices may have mediated some effect of the sudden transition to distance education for second-level schools. This led to a report in June 2020 focusing on the relationship between student engagement during the lockdown and availability of high-speed broadband in school catchment areas.

The Water research programme, in collaboration with **DHLGH**, undertook an evaluation of public initiatives to change behaviours that affect water quality, and work is currently underway on behaviours within local authorities and the agriculture sector. Fisheries research in 2020 focused on anglers' 'catch and release' choices, as well as angling demand.



Journal Articles

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Do rising rents lead to longer commutes? A gravity model of commuting flows in Ireland, *Urban Studies*, Vol. 58, No. 2, 2021, pp. 264–279, Seán Lyons, Achim Ahrens.

Early mobile phone ownership: influencing the wellbeing of girls and boys in Ireland?, *Journal of Children and Media*, Vol. 14, Issue 4, 2020, Seraphim Dempsey, Seán Lyons, Selina McCoy.

Enhanced network effects and stochastic modelling in generation expansion planning: Insights from an insular power system, *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences*, Vol. 71, September 2020, 100859, Desta Fitiwi, Muireann Á. Lynch, Valentin Bertsch.

Floods, flood policies and changes in welfare and inequality: Evidence from Germany, *Ecological Economic*, Vol. 180, February 2021, 106879, Miguel Tovar Reaños.

Heat pumps and our low-carbon future: A comprehensive review, *Energy Research & Social Science*, Vol. 71, January 2021, 101764, Ankita Singh Gaur, Desta Fitiwi, John Curtis.

Initial incidence of carbon taxes and environmental liability. A vehicle ownership approach, *Energy Policy*, Vol. 143, 2020, 111579, Miguel Tovar Reaños.

Modelling anglers' fish release choices using logbook data, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Policy*, Vol. 9, Issue 2, 2020, pp. 206–219, Routledge, Gianluca Grilli, John Curtis, Stephen Hynes.

Neuroscience application for the analysis of cultural ecosystem services related to stress relief in forest, *Forests*, Vol. 11, Issue 2, 2020, 190, Sandro Sacchelli, Gianluca Grilli, Irene Capecci, Lorenzo Bambi, Elena Barbierato, Tommaso Borghini.

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Public park attributes, park visits, and associated health status, *Landscape and Urban Planning*, Vol. 199, 2020, 103814, Gianluca Grilli, Greta Mohan, John Curtis.

Recreational angling demand in a mixed resource fishery, *Fisheries Management and Ecology*, Wiley, Gianluca Grilli, Soumyadeep Mukhopadhyay, John Curtis, Stephen Hynes.

Shell shocked: The impact of foreign entry on the gasoline retail market in China, *Energy Economics*, Vol. 86, February 2020, 104690, Robert Elliott, Puyang Sun, Tong Zhu.

The citizens in Citizen Science: Demographic, socioeconomic, and health characteristics of biodiversity recorders in Ireland, *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice*, Vol. 5, No. 1, p.16, Ubiquity Press, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, Seán Lyons, Anne Nolan.

Why do preferences for electricity services differ? Domestic appliance curtailment contracts in Ireland, *Energy Research & Social Science*, Vol. 69, November 2020, 101705, Elsevier, John Curtis, Gianluca Grilli, William Brazil, Jason Harold.



Reports and Other Publications

Research on the environment, health, consumer behaviour and the economy: ESRI Environment Research Programme 2018–2020, EPA Research Report No. 358, EPA, Wexford, Achim Ahrens, Peter Barlow, Brian Broderick, Philip Carthy, Aoife Donnelly, Tom Gillespie, Martina Hennessy, Ronan Lyons, Seán Lyons, Pete Lunn, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, Finn McLaughlin, Stefano Meneto, Frank Moriarty, Owen Naughton, Anne Nolan, Aonghus Ó Domhnaill, Margaret O'Mahony, Deirdre Robertson, Iulia Siedschlag, Shane Timmons, Manuel Tong Koecklin, Weijie Yan.

The environmental and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the Irish economy: An application of the I3E model, ESRI Research Series No. 106, ESRI, Dublin, Kelly de Bruin, Eoin Monaghan, Aykut Mert Yakut.

Technical documentation of I3E model, Version 3, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 91, ESRI, Dublin, Kelly de Bruin, Aykut Mert Yakut.



ESRI Research Bulletins

Curtailling use of large domestic appliances during the peak electricity load periods, ESRI, Dublin, John Curtis, Gianluca Grilli, William Brazil, Jason Harold.

Fuel switching and emissions savings in the residential sector, ESRI, Dublin, John Curtis, Miguel Tovar Reaños, Gianluca Grilli.

Household energy poverty and children's health, ESRI, Dublin, Gretta Mohan.

Initial incidence of carbon taxes and environmental liability. A vehicle ownership approach, ESRI, Dublin, Miguel Tovar Reaños.

Is early mobile phone ownership shaping child development? A longitudinal study of wellbeing among adolescent girls and boys in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Seraphim Dempsey, Seán Lyons, Selina McCoy.

Linking sustainable energy consumption and adaptation policies against floods, ESRI, Dublin, Miguel Tovar Reaños.

Location, location, location: determining the optimal long-run expansion of the Irish electricity system considering spatial and network impacts, ESRI, Dublin, Desta Fitiwi, Muireann Á. Lynch, Valentin Bertsch.

Models of demand response and an application for wastewater treatment plants, ESRI, Dublin, Dana Kirchem, Muireann Á. Lynch, Valentin Bertsch, Eoin Casey.

Recreational angling demand in a mixed resource fishery, ESRI, Dublin, Gianluca Grilli, Soumyadeep Mukhopadhyay, John Curtis, Stephen Hynes.

The benefits of visiting green space, ESRI, Dublin, Gianluca Grilli, Gretta Mohan, John Curtis.

The electricity system impacts of publicly-acceptable renewable energy development, ESRI, Dublin, Desta Fitiwi, Muireann Á. Lynch, Valentin Bertsch.

The role of power-to-gas in the future energy system: how much is needed and who wants to invest?, ESRI, Dublin, Muireann Á. Lynch, Mel Devine, Valentin Bertsch.

Urban rents and commuting times in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Seán Lyons, Achim Ahrens.



ESRI Working Papers

An experimental study of attitudes to changing water charges in Scotland, ESRI, Dublin, Cameron Belton, Deirdre Robertson, Pete Lunn.

Are energy poverty metrics fit for purpose? An assessment using behavioural microsimulation, ESRI, Dublin, Miguel Tovar Reaños, Muireann Á. Lynch.

Car ownership and the distributional and environmental policies to reduce driving behavior, ESRI, Dublin, Miguel Tovar Reaños.

Climate policy costs of spatially unbalanced growth in electricity demand: the case of datacentres, ESRI, Dublin, Desta Fitiwi, Muireann Á. Lynch.

Does moving home affect residential heating decisions? Exploring heating fuel switching in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, John Curtis, Gianluca Grilli.

Renewable electricity generation and transmission network developments in light of public opposition: Insights from Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Manuel Tong Koecklin, Desta Fitiwi, Joseph F. de Carolis, John Curtis.

The use of the I3E model in macroeconomic analysis for the Irish economy, ESRI, Dublin, Kelly de Bruin, Eoin Monaghan, Aykut Mert Yakut.

What does Paris mean for Africa? An integrated assessment analysis of the effects of the Paris Agreement on African economies, ESRI, Dublin, Kelly De Bruin and Victoria Ayuba.

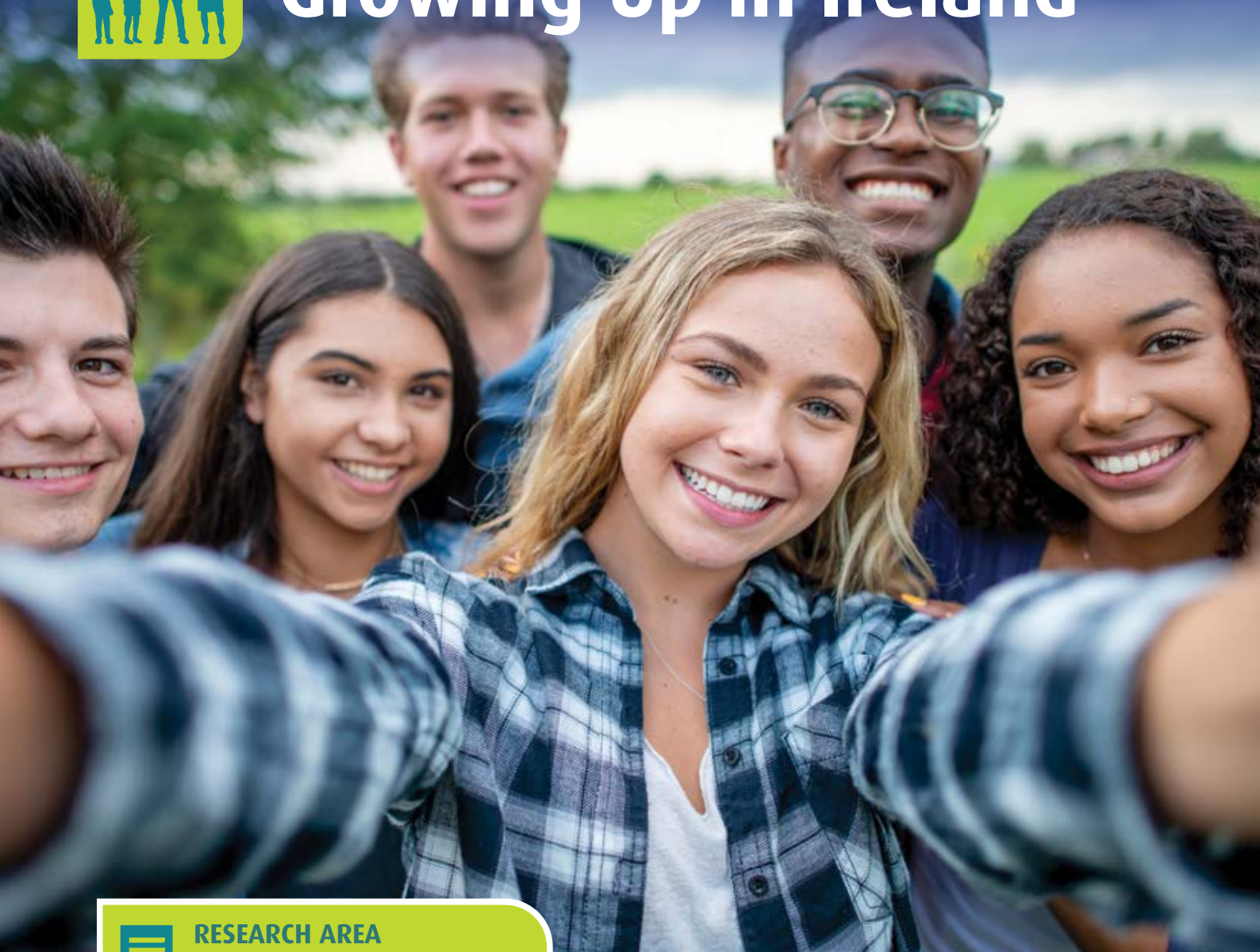




Growing Up in Ireland



Growing Up in Ireland



RESEARCH AREA COORDINATORS:

Dorothy Watson and Emer Smyth



OTHERS WORKING IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:

Aisling Murray, Desmond O'Mahony, Eoin McNamara, Caoimhe O'Reilly, Rebecca McClintock, Amanda Quail, Eoin Keogh, Aoife Murphy, Elizabeth Burke, Brigid Francis-Devine, Lisa Kelly, Hannah Frankis, Caroline Goodwin, Fionnuala Waters and Bernadette Ryan

Highlights

- 13-year-olds hold lower expectations than their parents about their educational career: only half of young people compared to over three-quarters of their mothers say they expect the young person to go on to higher education.
- Young people become less involved in cultural activities as they prepare for the Leaving Certificate and leave school: there is a marked decline in reading for pleasure and taking music/drama/dance lessons between 13 and 17 years of age.



Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) is the national longitudinal study of children in Ireland. It is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and is jointly managed by the Department and the Central Statistics Office.

The research is conducted by a consortium of independent researchers at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin. Activity in this area involves ongoing data collection on two cohorts of children and young people, and the publication of detailed research findings by members of the GUI team and other researchers at the ESRI. The research examines developmental outcomes for children and young people, and investigates how these vary between different groups in society and according to earlier circumstances and experiences.

The year 2020 saw the completion of a successful pilot survey of 13-year-olds and their parents as a preparation for the main fieldwork phase in 2021. The survey methods were adapted to reflect the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions. Recognising the strong impact of the pandemic and associated restrictions on children and young people, GUI researchers organised a survey on their experiences during the crisis. With the assistance of the Central Statistics Office, a web-based survey was completed in December 2020. The results will be published in 2021.

The 2020 Annual Conference in October was a virtual event, attracting a large international audience (with 349 registered). It mirrored the usual in-person event, with an address Minister Dr Roderic O’Gorman T.D., three parallel sessions of 27 talks from researchers

using Growing Up in Ireland data, and a keynote address. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Emla Fitzsimons of UCL, Director of the UK’s Millennium Cohort Study: ‘Mental health among young people: longitudinal evidence from the UK’. There was also, for the first time, an award for the best paper with a public policy focus, which was won by Dr Gretta Mohan, ESRI.

ESRI researchers presented papers on a wide range of topics at the conference, including the effect of the Great Recession on socioeconomic inequalities in childhood obesity; the role of parents in mediating the relationship between media consumption and child mental health from 3–9 years; socioeconomic disadvantage in access to supports for young people with disabilities; social inequality, gender, home learning activities and cognitive outcomes from early to middle childhood; risk and protective factors for mental health and wellbeing during childhood and adolescence; the influence of caregiver’s migration status on a child’s use of healthcare services; difficulties in the transition to second-level education: social background and gender gaps in Scotland and Ireland; the effect of parental educational expectations on socioemotional and academic outcomes among 17/18-year-olds with disabilities in Ireland; socioemotional wellbeing and school social mix; and the dynamics of child poverty in Ireland.



Reports and Other Publications

Design, instrumentation and procedures for cohort '08 of Growing Up in Ireland at 9 years old (Wave 5), Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Dublin, Eoin McNamara, Desmond O'Mahony, Aisling Murray.

Growing Up in Ireland: Growing up and developing as an adult: A review of the literature on selected topics pertaining to cohort '98 at age 20 years, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Dublin, Ashling Mangan-Ryan, Eoin McNamara, Desmond O'Mahony, Daráine Murphy, Caoimhe O'Reilly.

Growing Up in Ireland: The lives of 17/18-year-olds, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Dublin, Eoin McNamara, Daráine Murphy, Aisling Murray, Emer Smyth, Dorothy Watson.

Report on the pilot for wave five of the Cohort '08 Survey (at 9 years of age), Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Dublin, Aisling Murray, James Williams, Sophie Gallagher, Maeve Thornton, Dorothy Watson, Eoin McNamara, Desmond O'Mahony, Daráine Murphy, Caoimhe O'Reilly.

The Growing Up in Ireland Child Cohort come of age: Review of the literature pertaining to the 17/18 year wave, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Dublin, Aisling Murray, Eoin McNamara, Daráine Murphy, Caoimhe O'Reilly, Martha Neary, Oscar James.

The research examines developmental outcomes for children and young people, and investigates how these vary between different groups in society and according to earlier circumstances and experiences.







Health and Quality of Life



Health and Quality of Life



RESEARCH AREA COORDINATORS:

Seán Lyons, Anne Nolan and Maev-Ann Wren



OTHERS WORKING IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:

Aoife Brick, Sheelah Connolly, Nora Donnelly, Conor Keegan, Elish Kelly, Pete Lunn, Bertrand Maître, Frances McGinnity, Greta Mohan, Aisling Murray, Amanda Quail, Brendan Walsh, Dorothy Watson, Adele Bergin, Edward Henry, Peter Barlow, Míde Griffin and Emer Smyth

Highlights

- Expenditure on public hospital services is projected to rise from €5.9 billion in 2018 to between €10.8 and €14.3 billion by 2035 in nominal terms. Increasing input costs, especially pay, make up most of the projected rise in expenditures. Reducing current waiting-list backlogs and maintaining waiting times is estimated to require an additional €212 million on average per annum between 2021 and 2025.
- A study showed that four in ten 17-year-olds had not spoken to their parents about sex and relationships. Young people who had discussed sex and relationships with their parents at age 13 were more likely to use contraception at first sex. Therefore, initiatives to support parents in developing positive communication skills may be expected to have broader benefits in terms of discussions about sex and relationships.

Health research was carried out on several areas of health service reform and public health during 2020.

The ESRI Research Programme in Healthcare Reform, funded by the **Department of Health**, published two major reports, one projecting expenditure for public hospitals in Ireland from 2018 to 2035 and a second comparing Irish healthcare expenditure to that of other countries. Three supporting reports were also published covering baseline demand for and utilisation of services, including public hospitals, mental health, and disability.

Research on the links between the environment and health, as part of the research programme with the **EPA**, continued, with the programme extended for a further two-year period in June 2020. Papers on the characteristics of biodiversity data recorders, on the links between footpath availability, green space and obesity, and on the relationship between air pollution and asthma were published.

The research programme with **HSE Health and Wellbeing** finished in 2020. Two ESRI reports, on clusters of health behaviours among young people, and on sexual health information and behaviours, were published in 2020. Both made extensive use of the Growing Up in Ireland data. The first report found higher rates of drinking/smoking among young people whose parents are occasional or regular smokers. The latter report found a clear gender divide in reports of ease of discussions with parents about sex; young women found it easier to talk to their mothers, while young men found it easier to talk to their fathers. However, nearly 60 per cent of young men found it difficult or very difficult to talk to their fathers about sex.

A three-year (2018–2020) project funded by the **Health Research Board** (HRB), examining

the potential cost, outcomes, and challenges of alternative approaches to achieving universal healthcare, continued in 2020. A further **HRB**-funded project, in collaboration with RCSI, examining the costs of cognitive impairment post-stroke and interventions to ameliorate it, continued with a major conference in November 2020.

The **Irish Cancer Society**-funded project on barriers and challenges to returning to employment following a cancer diagnosis continued in 2020 when a paper was published examining the effect of insurance status on hospital waiting times. The report was launched in early 2021.

The **HRB**-funded project on Inequalities in Access to GP Care concluded in 2020. Papers published looked at: the impact of free GP care on the mental health of older people; the health effects of energy poverty among children; and the impact of prescription drug payments on the health of children. The **HRB**-funded project on Mortality, conducted in collaboration with the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA), continued in 2020, with papers on data linkage methods and discrepancies between mortality registration and survey end-of-life data released in 2020.



Journal Articles

The impact of prescription drug co-payments for publicly insured families, *European Journal of Health Economics*, Vol. 21, No. 2, March 2020, pp. 261-274, Gretta Mohan, Anne Nolan.

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Characterising urban green space density and footpath-accessibility in models of BMI, *BMC Public Health*, Vol. 20, Article number 760, 2020, Philip Carthy, Seán Lyons, Anne Nolan.

Linking death registration and survey data: Procedures and cohort profile for The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing, *HRB Open Res* 2020, 3:43, 2020, Mark Ward, Peter May, Robert Briggs, Triona McNicholas, Charles Normand, Rose Anne Kenny, Anne Nolan.

Does formal home care reduce inpatient length of stay?, *Health Economics*, Vol. 29(12), pp. 1620-1636, Wiley, Brendan Walsh, Seán Lyons, Samantha Smith, Maev-Ann Wren, James Eighan, Edgar Morgenroth.

Estimation of an instrument-defined minimally important difference in EQ-5D-5L index scores based on scoring algorithms derived using the EQ-VT version 2 valuation protocols, *Value in Health*, Vol. 23, Issue 7, 2020, pp. 936-944, Elsevier, Edward B. Henry, Luke E. Barry, Anna P. Hobbins, Nathan S. McClure, Ciaran O'Neill.

Free GP care and psychological health: Quasi-experimental evidence from Ireland, *Journal of Health Economics*, Vol. 72, July 2020, 102351, Elsevier, Yuanyuan Ma, Anne Nolan, James Smith.

Insurance status and waiting times for hospital-based services in Ireland, *Health Policy*, Vol. 124, Issue 11, November 2020, pp. 1174-1181, Elsevier, Richard Whyte, Sheelah Connolly, Maev-Ann Wren.

Local NO₂ concentrations and asthma among over-50s in Ireland: A microdata analysis, *International Journal of Epidemiology*, Vol. 49, No. 6, 2020, pp. 1899-1908, Oxford University Press, Oxford, Philip Carthy, Aonghus Ó Domhnaill, Margaret O'Mahoney, Anne Nolan, Frank Moriarty, Brian Broderick, Martina Hennessy, Aoife Donnelly, Owen Naughton, Seán Lyons.

Poststroke cognitive impairment in model-based economic evaluation: A systematic review, *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders*, Vol. 48, No. 5-6, pp. 234-240, Eithne Sexton, Niamh Merriman, Nora-Ann Donnelly, Maev-Ann Wren, Anne Hickey, Kathleen Bennett.

The economics of dementia, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance*, Oxford University Press, Sheelah Connolly.

The great convergence? Mortality in Ireland and Europe, 1956-2014, *European Journal of Public Health*, Oxford University Press, James Eighan, Brendan Walsh, Sheelah Connolly, Maev-Ann Wren, Conor Keegan, Adele Bergin.

The introduction of lifetime community rating in the Irish private health insurance market: Effects on coverage and plan choice, *Social Science & Medicine*, Vol. 255, June 2020, 113006, Conor Keegan.

The StrokeCog study: development and description of a cognition-focused psychological intervention to address cognitive impairment following stroke, *Psychology and Health*, Routledge, Niamh A. Merriman, Diane Gillan, Niall Pender, David J. Williams, Frances Horgan, Eithne Sexton, Marie Johnston, Kathleen E. Bennett, Nora-Ann Donnelly, Maev-Ann Wren, Anne Hickey.

Young, poor, and sick: The public health threat of energy poverty for children in Ireland, *Energy Research & Social Science*, Vol. 71, January 2021, 101822, Gretta Mohan.



Reports and Other Publications

Clusters of health behaviours among young adults in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 101, ESRI, Dublin, Anne Nolan, Emer Smyth.

How does Irish Healthcare Expenditure compare internationally?, ESRI Research Series No. 114, ESRI, Dublin, Maev-Ann Wren, Aoife Fitzpatrick.

Projections of expenditure for public hospitals in Ireland, 2018–2035, based on the Hippocrates Model, ESRI Research Series No. 117, ESRI, Dublin, Conor Keegan, Aoife Brick, Adele Bergin, Maev-Ann Wren, Edward Henry, Richard Whyte.

Talking about sex and sexual behaviour of young people in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 112, ESRI, Dublin, Anne Nolan, Emer Smyth.

Utilisation of public acute hospital services in Ireland — Baseline analysis for the Hippocrates model, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 100, ESRI, Dublin, Aoife Brick, Conor Keegan.

Utilisation of specialist disability services in Ireland — Baseline analysis for the Hippocrates model, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 89, ESRI, Dublin, Aoife Brick, Conor Keegan, Maev-Ann Wren.

Utilisation of specialist mental health services in Ireland — Baseline analysis for the Hippocrates model, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 90, ESRI, Dublin, Aoife Brick, Conor Keegan, Maev-Ann Wren.



QEC SPECIAL ARTICLES AND RESEARCH NOTES

COVID-19 and emergency department attendances in Irish public hospitals, QEC Special Article, ESRI, Dublin, Seán Lyons, Aoife Brick.



ESRI Research Bulletins

Does formal home care reduce inpatient length of stay?, ESRI, Dublin, Brendan Walsh, Seán Lyons, Samantha Smith, Maev-Ann Wren, James Eighan, Edgar Morgenroth.

Free GP care and mental health, ESRI, Dublin, Yuanyuan Ma, Anne Nolan, James Smith.

Insurance status and waiting times for hospital-based services in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Richard Whyte, Sheelah Connolly, Maev-Ann Wren.

Local air pollution and asthma among over-50s in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Philip Carthy, Aonghus Ó Domhnaill, Margaret O'Mahony, Anne Nolan, Frank Moriarty, Brian Broderick, Martina Hennessy, Aoife Donnelly, Owen Naughton, Seán Lyons.

The great convergence? Mortality in Ireland and Europe, 1956–2014, ESRI, Dublin, James Eighan, Brendan Walsh, Sheelah Connolly, Maev-Ann Wren, Conor Keegan, Adele Bergin.

The introduction of lifetime community rating in the Irish private health insurance market: Effects on coverage and plan choice, ESRI, Dublin, Conor Keegan.



ESRI Working Papers

An analysis of trends in Irish public healthcare expenditure and staffing, ESRI, Dublin, Richard Whyte, Maev-Ann Wren, Conor Keegan, Aoife Brick.

Paying more to wait less: Estimating the cost of reducing Ireland's public hospital waiting lists, ESRI, Dublin, Aoife Brick, Conor Keegan.



Labour Market and Skills



Labour Market and Skills



RESEARCH AREA COORDINATOR:

Seamus McGuinness



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Highlights

- Jobseekers who engaged with SICAP employment supports were approximately 18 per cent more likely to have progressed into employment or self-employment after 3 to 6 months than similar individuals who had not received such supports.
- Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, 22 per cent of employees in Ireland were in essential occupations. ESRI analysis stressed the need for effective childcare supports for essential employees battling the pandemic.

During 2020, research was undertaken on a range of issues and several new publications were either released or finalised.

The team launched research – funded by the **Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)** and managed by **Pobal** – evaluating labour-market activation supports administered to job-seekers who are furthest from the labour market. Two studies, funded by the **Low Pay Commission**, were completed and are awaiting publication, examining (a) the impact of minimum-wage changes on average labour costs, and (b) a comparative study of minimum wages in Europe. A third study, using a new administrative dataset, examining the employment impacts of recent minimum wage rises, was also commenced.

The team also completed two COVID-19-related studies during the year. The first examined the incidence and characteristics of essential workers in Ireland. The second assessed Irish employees' ability to work from home. A report on minimum-wage policy in Ireland, and the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for minimum-wage employment, was also published, as was a study on the employment impacts of automation, funded by **Cedefop**. Researchers continued to provide regular reports on Ireland's labour-market progress to the European Commission's **European and Employment Policy Observatory (EEPO)**. A study, funded by the **Pensions Authority**, looking at the impact of retirement on spending, and the different effects by household type and gender, was published. Finally, throughout 2020 the team continued to publish academic papers in leading international and national journals.

Several new research programmes commenced during the year. Work began on

a new programme, funded by **DRCD**, that will undertake monitoring and evaluation studies relevant to departmental activities. The team also began work on a new **Pobal** programme, which will initially focus on issues such as childhood disability and the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on deprived areas. Work began on a new **Fáilte Ireland**-funded programme, which involves an initial study modelling tourism demand. Finally, a new programme was signed with the **Department for Employment and Social Protection** and work has begun on a project recalibrating the PEX statistical profiling model that is currently in use in Intreo offices.



Journal Articles

Educational expansion and overeducation of young graduates: A comparative analysis of 30 European countries, *Oxford Review of Education*, Vol. 46, Issue 1, 2020, pp. 10-29, Judith Delaney, Seamus McGuinness, Konstantinos Pouliakas, Paul Redmond.

Minimum wage non-compliance, *Applied Economics Letters*, Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond, Judith Delaney.

Returns to education in Vietnam: A changing landscape, *World Development*, Vol. 138, February 2021, 105205, Elsevier, Seamus McGuinness, Elish Kelly, Pham Thi Thu Phuong, Ha Thi Thu Thuy, Adele Whelan.

The determinants of degree programme satisfaction, *Studies in Higher Education*, Adele Whelan, Seamus McGuinness.

The impact of a minimum wage change on the distribution of wages and household income, *Oxford Economic Papers*, Paul Redmond, Karina Doorley, Seamus McGuinness.

The labor market in Ireland, 2000–2018, *IZA World of Labor*, 2020: 410, Adele Bergin, Elish Kelly, Paul Redmond.



Reports and Other Publications

Assessing the employment impact of technological change and automation: the role of employers' practices, Cedefop research paper No. 79, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond.

Evaluation of SICAP pre-employment supports, ESRI Research Series No. 109, ESRI, Dublin, Adele Whelan, Emer Smyth, Seamus McGuinness.

Differences in risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 across occupations in Ireland, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 93, ESRI, Dublin, Brendan Walsh, Paul Redmond, Barra Roantree.

Essential employees during the Covid-19 Crisis, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 85, ESRI, Dublin, Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness.

Managing mass unemployment flows during the COVID-19 pandemic, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 95, ESRI, Dublin, Seamus McGuinness, Elish Kelly.

Who can work from home in Ireland?, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 87, ESRI, Dublin, Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness.



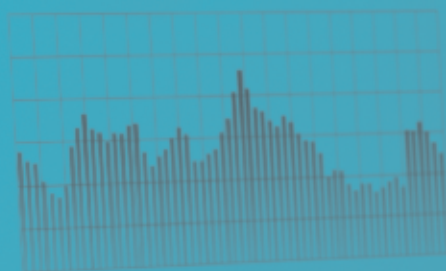
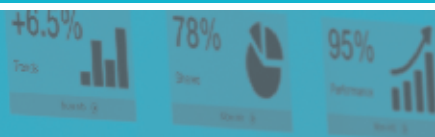
ESRI Working Papers

Wage scarring among unlucky European cohorts, ESRI, Dublin, Mark Regan.

The team also completed two COVID-19-related studies during the year. The first examined the incidence and characteristics of essential workers in Ireland. The second assessed Irish employees' ability to work from home.



CTMX	0.45	▲ +0.45%
FTF	-0.23	▼ -2.34%
CSCO	-1.01	▼ -1.03%
CHK	0.02	▲ +0.21%
44PL	+2.36	▲ +2.05%
PRTO	-0.14	▼ -1.42%
AMZN	-0.73	▼ -0.90%
TSLA	+1.08	▲ +5.12%
AVGO	-0.87	▼ -3.88%
SIRI	-0.85	▼ -1.37%





Macroeconomics



Macroeconomics



RESEARCH AREA COORDINATORS:

Martina Lawless and Kieran McQuinn



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Seán Lyons, Philip Economides, Keelan Beirne, Shiyu Yan, John Curtis, Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Adele Bergin, Kelly De Bruin, Abian Garcia Rodriguez, Ilias Kostarakos, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker, Seamus McGuinness, Petros Varathalitis, Aykut Mert Yakut, Cathal Coffey and Achim Ahrens

Highlights

- A paper analysed the short-run, three-month impact of the pandemic on rental affordability and missed payments for a specific cohort of the private rental sector in Ireland.
- An examination of sectoral exposure to both the COVID-19 and Brexit shocks assessed the risk that the impact of a hard Brexit on an economy weakened by dealing with COVID-19 could make the previously estimated effects of Brexit worse.

Understanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy dominated the work of the macroeconomic research programme in the ESRI in 2020, in the light of the widespread restrictions limiting activity in many sectors.

How the pandemic would affect overall economic indicators was the subject of two investigations undertaken as part of the ongoing joint research programme between the ESRI, the **Department of Finance** and the **Revenue Commissioners**. The first examined a range of scenarios on how severe the economic impact might be under a range of epidemiology scenarios. This was updated and expanded to examine the interaction of the effects of the pandemic with a number of Brexit scenarios as more information became available on how the pandemic was evolving. As part of this research programme, an examination of the potential overlap and interactions of the pandemic and Brexit scenarios was also conducted at a sectoral level. This found that the sectors that had been most severely affected by the pandemic restrictions were relatively less exposed to the potential negative trade impacts of Brexit. A range of scenarios investigated how the small and medium enterprise sector would be affected by COVID-19. This work highlighted the role of expenditure reductions and cash reserves in aiding firms to absorb some of the reductions in turnover, but identified substantial uncovered losses that became greater the longer the economic restrictions lasted. Other work under this programme found that the Irish tax structure was more supportive of economic activity than in many other comparable countries.

The joint research programme with the **Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government** was officially extended for a second three-year term in 2020. Research in the programme was published on the impact of the credit gap in the Irish mortgage market; the Rebuilding Ireland

Home Loan scheme was reviewed, and future structural demand in the Irish housing sector at a county level was analysed. A particular focus of research in 2020 was on COVID-19; a number of papers explored the short- and long-term impact of the pandemic on the Irish housing and rental markets. A general paper examined the impact of COVID-19 on the housing market, while a report examined the impact of the pandemic on affordability in the rental market. Work in the programme also examined the structural demand for housing at a regional level. The ESRI continued to produce the quarterly rent index for the Residential Tenancies Board through 2020. This index determines which Local Electoral Areas are designated as Rent Pressure Zones.

The *Quarterly Economic Commentary (QEC)* continued to provide analysis of recent economic developments in the Irish economy as well as short-term forecasts for key economic indicators. As with publications in other areas of the Institute, a significant focus of the *Commentary* was on the impact of COVID-19 on the Irish economy. Research was produced on the potential joint impact of COVID-19 and Brexit on Irish GDP in 2021 and beyond. Other research assessed the impact of the pandemic on debt sustainability and the role European institutions have played in facilitating the extraordinary fiscal measures taken during the year. Additional research explored the dichotomy of the impact of the pandemic on the Irish domestic and traded sectors and a comparison between the recessions brought about by COVID-19 and the global financial crisis. Additional work in the macroeconomic area examined issues concerning a Northern Ireland border poll.



Journal Articles

Household savings constraints, uncertainty and macroprudential policy, *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 68, Issue 2, May 2021, pp. 238-260, Conor O'Toole, Kieran McQuinn, Philip Economides.

The (pro-) cyclicalities of government consumption in the EU and official expectations of future output growth: New evidence, *International Economics and Economic Policy*, Vol. 18, 2021, pp. 331-345, David Cronin, Kieran McQuinn.

Financial frictions and the SME investment gap: new survey evidence for Ireland, *Venture Capital*, Vol. 22, Issue 3, 2020, Routledge, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Martina Lawless, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker.

Predicting default risk under asymmetric binary link functions, *International Journal of Forecasting*, Vol. 36, Issue 3, July-September 2020, pp. 1039-1056, Yiannis Dendramis, E. Tzavalis, Petros Varthalitis, Eleni Athanasiou.

The political economy of a Northern Ireland border poll, *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, Vol. 44, Issue 4, July 2020, pp. 781-812, Seamus McGuinness, Adele Bergin.



Reports and Other Publications

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Exploring the short-run implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on affordability in the Irish private rental market, ESRI Research Series No. 108, ESRI, Dublin, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker, Kieran McQuinn, Cathal Coffey, Eoin Corrigan.

Regional demographics and structural housing demand at a county level, ESRI Research Series No. 111, ESRI, Dublin, Adele Bergin, Abian Garcia-Rodriguez.

Review of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme, ESRI Research Series No. 104, ESRI, Dublin, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker.

SME investment report 2019, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 86, ESRI, Dublin, Martina Lawless, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Conor O'Toole, Eric Gargan, Leona Cantwell, Peter McGoldrick.

Quarterly Economic Commentary, Autumn 2020, ESRI, Dublin, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Matthew Allen Coghlan, Cathal Coffey.

Quarterly Economic Commentary, Spring 2020, ESRI, Dublin, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Cathal Coffey.

Quarterly Economic Commentary, Summer 2020, ESRI, Dublin, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Cathal Coffey.

Quarterly Economic Commentary, Winter 2020, ESRI, Dublin, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Cathal Coffey.



Chapters in Books and Reports

How openness to trade rescued the Irish Economy, N. Campos, P. De Grauwe, & Y. Ji (eds.), *Economic Growth and Structural Reforms in Europe*, pp. 377-406, Kieran McQuinn, Petros Varthalitis.



QEC SPECIAL ARTICLES AND RESEARCH NOTES

Comparing two recessions in Ireland: Global financial crisis vs COVID-19, QEC Research Note, ESRI, Dublin, Petros Varthalitis, Matthew Allen-Coghlan.

The lockdown tale of two economies in Ireland: How big tech and pharma bucked the trend, QEC Research Note, ESRI, Dublin, Conor O'Toole.

Assessing the impacts of COVID-19 on the Irish property market: An overview of the issues,

QEC Special Article, ESRI, Dublin, Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole.

COVID-19 pandemic and SMEs revenues in Ireland: What's the gap?, QEC Special Article, ESRI, Dublin, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Martina Lawless, Conor O'Toole.

Sovereign debt after COVID-19: How the involvement of the ECB can impact the recovery path of a member state, QEC Special Article, ESRI, Dublin, Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Kieran McQuinn, Petros Varthalitis.

Understanding recent trends in the Irish economy, QEC Special Article, ESRI, Dublin, John FitzGerald.



ESRI Research Bulletins

Existing evidence and continued uncertainties surrounding a Northern Ireland border poll, ESRI, Dublin, Seamus McGuinness, Adele Bergin.



ESRI Working Papers

A review of the methodologies used in compiling owner-occupiers' housing indices, ESRI, Dublin, Achim Ahrens, Keelan Beirne, Philip Economides, Ilias Kostarakos, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole.

A freight transport demand, energy and emission model with technological choices, ESRI, Dublin, Shiyu Yan, Kelly de Bruin, Emer Dennehy, John Curtis.

Are official forecasts of output growth in the EU still biased? Evidence from stability and convergence programmes and the European Commission's spring forecasts, ESRI, Dublin, David Cronin, Kieran McQuinn.

Back to the future? Macroprudential policy and the rebirth of local authority mortgages in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker.

Credit demand in the Irish mortgage market: What is the gap and could public lending help?, ESRI, Dublin, Eoin Corrigan, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker.

Debt sharing after Covid-19: How the direct involvement of EU institutions could impact the recovery path of a member state, ESRI, Dublin, Kieran McQuinn, Petros Varthalitis.

Determinants of the (non-Housing) Labour Income Share in the EU, ESRI, Dublin, Ilias Kostarakos.

Estimating the cost of Irish housing for the CPI: A rental equivalence approach, ESRI, Dublin, Matthew Allen-Coughlan, Cathal Coffey, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Ilias Kostarakos, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole.

Examination of the sectoral overlap of COVID-19 and Brexit shocks, ESRI, Dublin, Luke Daly, Martina Lawless.

Fiscal policy and growth forecasts in the EU: Are official forecasters still misestimating fiscal multipliers?, ESRI, Dublin, David Cronin, Kieran McQuinn.

Fiscal policy and growth in a panel of EU countries over 1995–2017, ESRI, Dublin, Ilias Kostarakos, Petros Varthalitis.

Productivity dispersion and sectoral labour shares in Europe, ESRI, Dublin, Martina Lawless, Luke Rehill.

Property prices and COVID-19 related administrative closures: What are the implications?, ESRI, Dublin, Kieran McQuinn.

Rental equivalence, owner-occupied housing and inflation measurement: Micro-level evidence from Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Cathal Coffey, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole.

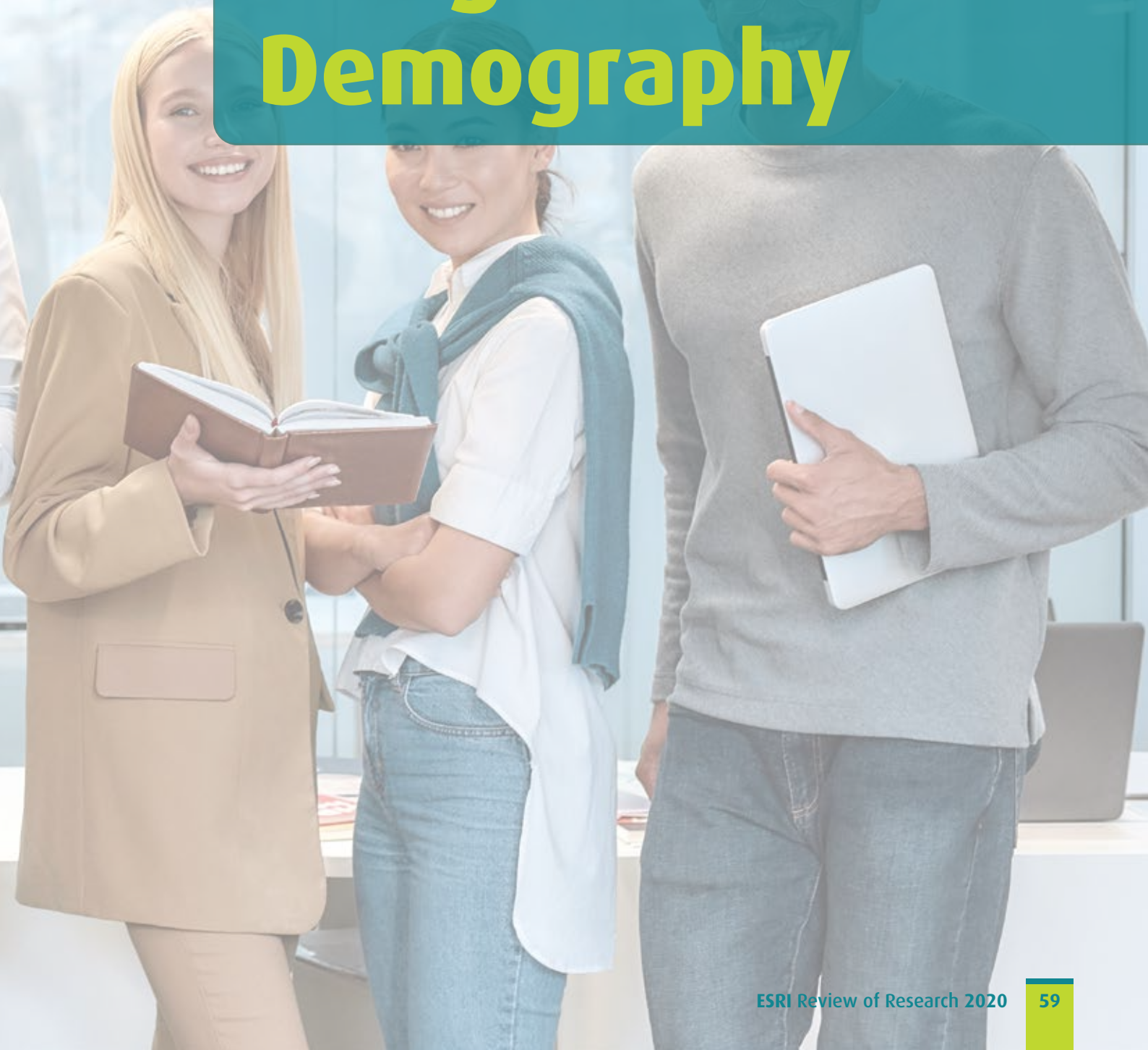
Repayment capacity, debt service ratios and mortgage default: An exploration in crisis and non-crisis periods, ESRI, Dublin, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker.

The (Pro-)cyclicality of fiscal policy in the EU and governments' expectations of future output growth: New evidence, ESRI, Dublin, David Cronin, Kieran McQuinn.





Migration, Integration and Demography





Migration, Integration and Demography



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Highlights

- Examining the early impact of the pandemic, researchers found East European workers more exposed to COVID-19 job loss than Irish nationals and some ethnic minority groups to COVID-19 infection, though not to deaths from COVID-19².
- A report investigating international practices on civics and language requirements linked to naturalisation and policy implications for Ireland found that, if the goal is to promote migrant integration, requirements should focus on learning opportunities, such as courses, rather than tests.

² Based on information supplied by CSO up to 24 November 2020.



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

An EMN Ireland report highlighted that increased numbers of migrants have been granted protection under various schemes in recent years while another looked at admission schemes for migrant start-ups and entrepreneurs. Like all EMN Ireland outputs, these studies fed into an EU-wide analysis. Another EMN Ireland report found that Ireland has relatively favourable conditions for acquiring citizenship by naturalisation, but highlighted processing delays and lack of clarity on some eligibility conditions. EMN Ireland also contributed to a series of EMN/OECD papers (EMN Informs) on the impact of COVID-19 on the migration of essential workers, international students, residence permits and migrant unemployment.

A second strand of research in the area falls under the research programme on Integration and Equality, funded by the **Department of Justice** until end September 2020, now funded by **the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth**. Four reports were published in 2020. One report analysed Census 2016 microdata on first-generation migrants from over one hundred countries of birth. Coming from a country with many asylum applicants

is associated with poorer labour-market outcomes for migrants. Black migrants fare worse in the Irish labour market when compared to white migrants, but this is not true for Asian migrants.

Researchers also participated in an international COST network, funded by **Horizon 2020**, which included presenting at a policy dialogue event in Brussels.

In addition to topic reports, the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2019: Ireland, a review of asylum and migration policy developments was published.



Journal Articles

Commuting across the Irish border, *Economic Letters*, Vol. 190, May 2020, 109060, Elsevier, Achim Ahrens, John FitzGerald, Seán Lyons.

Another EMN Ireland report found that Ireland has relatively favourable conditions for acquiring citizenship by naturalisation, but highlighted processing delays and lack of clarity on some eligibility conditions.



Reports and Other Publications

COVID-19 and non-Irish nationals in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Frances McGinnity, Helen Russell, Ivan Privalko, Shannen Enright.

Monitoring report on integration 2020, Frances McGinnity, Shannen Enright, Emma Quinn, Bertrand Maître, Ivan Privalko, Merike Darmody, Michał Polakowski.

Origin and integration: a study of migrants in the 2016 Irish Census, ESRI and Department of Justice and Equality, Dublin, Frances McGinnity, Ivan Privalko, Éamonn Fahey, Doireann O'Brien, Shannen Enright.

Supporting integration? International practices on civics and language requirements linked to naturalisation: policy implications for Ireland, ESRI and Department of Justice and Equality, Dublin, Sarah Groarke, Michał Polakowski, Emma Quinn, Frances McGinnity.

Migratory pathways to Ireland for start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs, ESRI Research Series No. 102, ESRI, Dublin, Frank McNamara, Emma Quinn.

National statuses granted for protection reasons in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 96, ESRI, Dublin, Sarah Groarke, Patricia Brazil.

Pathways to citizenship through naturalisation in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 116, ESRI, Dublin, Sarah Groarke, Róisín Dunbar.

Annual report on migration and asylum 2019: Ireland, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 102, ESRI, Dublin, Anne Sheridan.



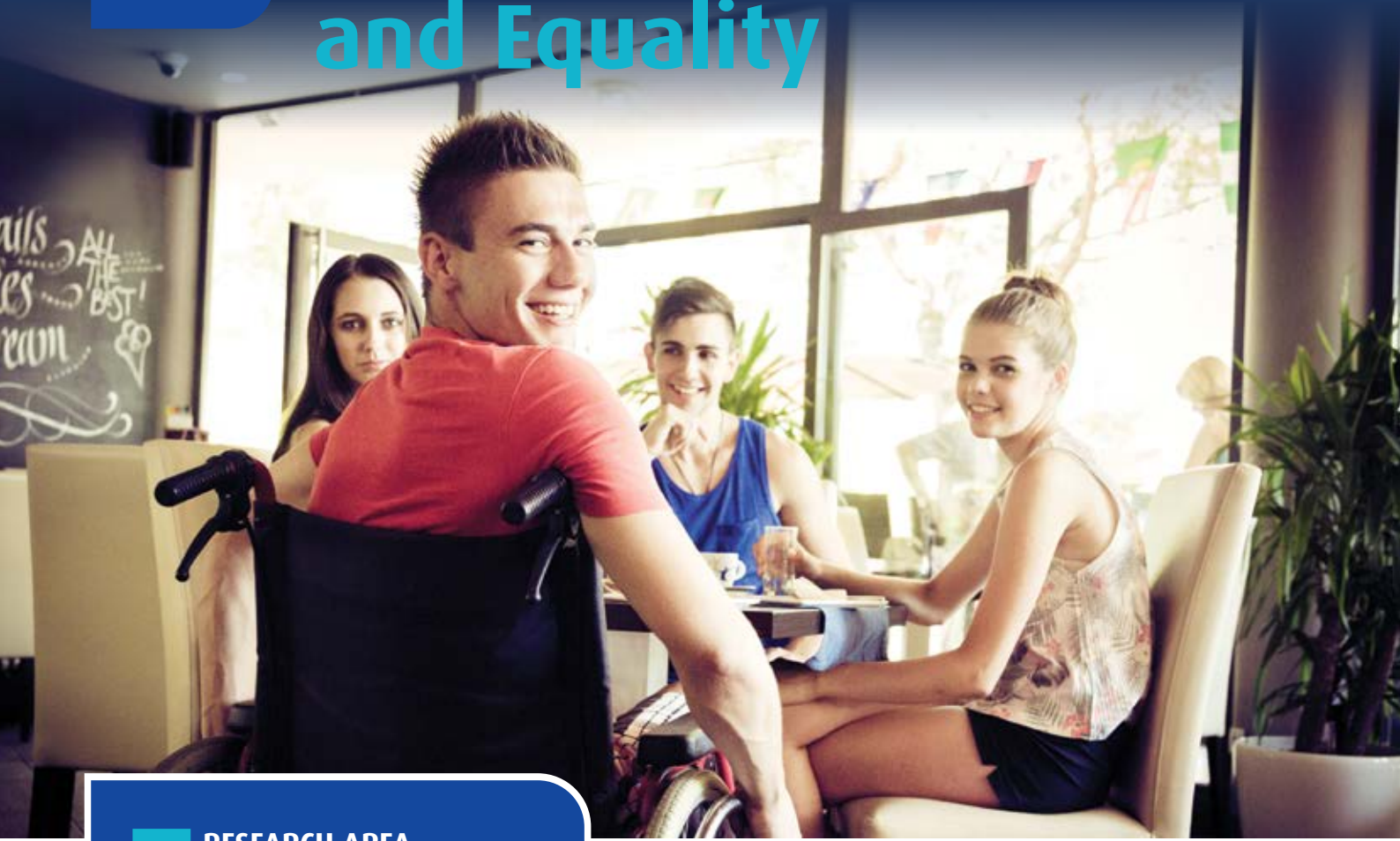




Social Inclusion and Equality



Social Inclusion and Equality



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Highlights

- The use of flexible work options has a positive effect on perceptions of support for work-life balance in an Irish civil service department. Yet over a third of workers believe that using flexible work options negatively affects their chances of promotion.
- The report 'Hidden versus revealed attitudes' found that people in Ireland mask negative attitudes to black immigrants to Ireland, but not to Muslim immigrants. Those with third-level qualifications are more likely to mask negative attitudes than those with lower levels of education.

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

Funded by the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission**, a report published in July investigated the gap between attitudes people reveal in public and what they express anonymously, using the first list experiment in Ireland. In this research programme, work continued on monitoring decent work and adequate housing, and included a consultation event on adequate housing in March.

A report funded by the **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP)**, published in November, found that the receipt of payments and services tied to housing, childcare and primary healthcare contributes to reduce material deprivation, and that the effect is greatest among the most vulnerable. Research on disability among preschool children was undertaken with **Pobal**, to inform the ongoing development of the AIM childcare programme. Finally, work began on a new research programme with the **National Disability Authority**, examining the experiences of persons with disabilities across a range of key policy areas, including personal assistance services to support community living and employment patterns of this group.

A journal article from the equality area found that children who engaged in frequent home learning activities had higher vocabulary scores, and that these activities can help compensate somewhat for social disadvantage in vocabulary.

Work was also carried out on the gender pay gap, including collaboration with Professor Paula England, NYU, to add an Irish dimension to her Geary Lecture and the subsequent journal article '**Has the Gender Revolution Stalled?**' The article examines changes in gender inequality since 1970, across multiple indicators: educational attainment, employment, segregation in fields of study, occupational segregation, and pay. Two presentations on the causes of and policy solutions to gender inequalities in pay were made to the *Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality*. A report on gender balance in the civil service, funded by the **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**, found that, while men occupy the majority of senior positions in the civil service, they are more likely than women to perceive gender bias in promotional competitions.

ESRI researchers also participated in the advisory board of an LSE-based project titled 'Social Policies and Distributional Outcomes'.



Journal Articles

Has the gender revolution stalled?, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 51 No. 4, Winter, 2020, Economic and Social Studies, Dublin, Paula England, Ivan Privalko, Andrew Levine.

What you do versus who you are: Home-learning activities, social origin and cognitive skills among young children in Ireland, *European Sociological Review*, Volume 36, Issue 4, August 2020, pp. 610-625, Oxford University Press, Patricia McMullin, Frances McGinnity, Aisling Murray, Helen Russell.



Reports and Other Publications

Social transfers and deprivation in Ireland: A study of cash and non-cash payments tied to housing, childcare, and primary health care services, ESRI and the Department of Social Protection, Dublin, Bertrand Maître, Ivan Privalko, Dorothy Watson.

Gender balance at work: A study of an Irish Civil Service department, ESRI Research Series No. 115, ESRI, Dublin, Shannen Enright, Helen Russell.

Specialist support for persons with disabilities living in the community: Review of international practice, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 97, ESRI, Dublin, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, Seán Lyons, Selina McCoy.

The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for policy in relation to children and young people: a research review, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 94, ESRI, Dublin, Merike Darmody, Emer Smyth, Helen Russell.

Hidden versus revealed attitudes: A list experiment on support for minorities in Ireland, ESRI and Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), Dublin, Frances McGinnity, Mathew Creighton, Éamonn Fahey.



ESRI Research Bulletins

From income poverty to quality of life measurement in Ireland — an overview, ESRI, Dublin, Christopher T. Whelan, Dorothy Watson, Bertrand Maître.

What you do versus who you are: Home-learning activities, social origin and cognitive skills among young children in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Patricia McMullin, Frances McGinnity, Aisling Murray, Helen Russell.



Other Papers

Child poverty in Ireland and the pandemic recession, ESRI, Dublin, Mark Regan, Bertrand Maître.

A journal article from the equality area found that children who engaged in frequent home learning activities had higher vocabulary scores, and that these activities can help compensate somewhat for social disadvantage in vocabulary.



Tax, Welfare and Pensions



Tax, Welfare and Pensions



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Highlights

- Research on the impacts of COVID-19-related unemployment found that household income would have fallen by an average of 7 per cent with no government intervention. Thanks to the initial policy response in the form of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP), wage subsidy and standard-rate VAT cut, household income fell instead by 3 per cent, with stabilisation of income inequality – a significant feat given the job losses experienced.
- In a major modelling development, SWITCH, the ESRI tax and benefit model, was updated to a new, more flexible platform and was rolled out to government users during the summer. This will allow the monitoring of ongoing effects of COVID-19 on incomes and income inequality and the role for income protective policies to play as the pandemic continues.



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

Research in this area was supported by funding from the **Departments of Social Protection, Health, Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth** and **Finance**, as well as through the grant-in-aid provided by the **Department of Public Expenditure and Reform**.

The model provided a useful tool to examine the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on incomes and inequality, and the role of social welfare policies and employment supports in protecting incomes. In a major modelling development, the model was updated to a new, more flexible platform. It was rolled out to government users during the summer. It will continue to be a useful tool, both in government and at the ESRI, in monitoring the ongoing effects of COVID-19 on incomes and income inequality, along with the role to play of tax-benefit policies.

Research launched as part of the ESRI's annual Budget Perspectives conference was strongly influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. One paper launched as part of the conference estimated the initial impact that COVID-19-related job losses had on family incomes and the public finances. Another paper assessed the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on consumption and its implications for indirect tax receipts in 2020. Further research looked at the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on

child poverty. Finally, the conference examined research on minimum-wage policy in Ireland over the past 20 years and surveyed the recent evidence on the economic impacts of a minimum wage.

The annual post-Budget analysis also focused on the overall impact of COVID-19 on incomes. It found that pandemic-related unemployment could have decreased household income by an average of 7 per cent across the population but, thanks to tax and benefit policy changes enacted, household income fell instead by 3 per cent on average. Losses were sharpest at the higher end of the income distribution. Income inequality would have increased substantially but was stabilised due to COVID-related interventions. While much less costly than pre-Budget COVID-19 policies, Budget 2021 was also progressive in its impact, with above-average gains for the bottom two-fifths of the income distribution and lower than average gains for those at the upper end.

During the year a variety of other topics were also examined as part of the programme. These include work investigating the distributional impact of planned carbon-tax increases and income adequacy in retirement in Ireland. The drivers of income inequality over the Great Recession were also examined, along with the distributional impact of tax and transfers over the lifetime.



Journal Articles

Frictions and taxpayer responses: evidence from bunching at personal tax thresholds, *International Tax and Public Finance*, 2020, Springer, Stuart Adam, James Browne, David Phillips, Barra Roantree.

Mobility and the lifetime distributional impact of tax and transfer reforms, *International Tax and Public Finance*, 2020, Springer, Peter Levell, Barra Roantree & Jonathan Shaw.

Consumption in retirement: Heterogeneous effects by household type and gender, *Journal of Population Ageing*, 2020, Springer, Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness.

Labour supply after inheritances and the role of expectations, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Nico Pestel, Karina Doorley.

What drove income inequality in EU crisis countries during the Great Recession?, *Fiscal Studies*, Karina Doorley, Tim Callan, Michael Savage.



Reports and Other Publications

Income adequacy in retirement: Evidence from the Irish longitudinal study on ageing (TILDA), ESRI Research Series No. 107, ESRI, Dublin, Keelan Beirne, Anne Nolan, Barra Roantree.

Carbon taxes, poverty and compensation options, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 98, ESRI, Dublin, Seamus O'Malley, Barra Roantree, John Curtis.



QEC SPECIAL ARTICLES AND RESEARCH NOTES

Distributional impact of tax and welfare policies: COVID-related policies and Budget 2021, QEC Special Article, ESRI, Dublin, Karina Doorley, Claire Keane, Alyvia McTague, Seamus O'Malley, Mark Regan, Barra Roantree, Dora Tuda.



ESRI Research Bulletins

Spending in retirement: Differences by household type and gender, ESRI, Dublin, Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness.



Other Papers

Desired hours worked over the business cycle: stylised facts for European countries, TEP Working Paper No. 1320, Trinity College Dublin, Department of Economics, Dublin, Dora Tuda.

Tax-benefit systems and the gender gap in income, IZA Discussion Paper No. 13786, IZA, Bonn, Karina Doorley, Claire Keane.

Top incomes in Ireland: Reconciling evidence from tax records and household survey data, IZA Discussion Paper No. 13585, IZA, Bonn, Tim Callan, Karina Doorley, Alyvia McTague.

Minimum wage policy in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Paul Redmond.

The effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on consumption and indirect taxes in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Cathal Coffey, Karina Doorley, Barra Roantree, Conor O'Toole.

The potential costs and distributional effect of COVID-19 related unemployment in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin, Keelan Beirne, Karina Doorley, Mark Regan, Barra Roantree, Dora Tuda.



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- Member, Editorial Board, Ireland's Yearbook of Education

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- Steering Group Member, ESRI/Department of Finance Research Programme
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