

Review of Research 2022



INSTITIÚID TAIGHDE
EACNAMAÍOCHTA
AGUS SÓISIALTA
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Informed policy
for a better Ireland

About the ESRI

The mission of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) is to advance evidence-based policymaking that supports economic sustainability and social progress in Ireland. ESRI researchers apply the highest standards of academic excellence to challenges facing policymakers, focusing on 10 areas of critical importance to 21st Century Ireland.

The Institute was founded in 1960 by a group of senior civil servants led by Dr T.K. Whitaker, who identified the need for independent and in-depth research analysis to provide a robust evidence base for policymaking 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 quality of its research output is guaranteed by a rigorous peer review process. ESRI researchers are experts in their fields and are committed to producing work that meets the highest academic standards and practices.

The work of the Institute is disseminated widely in books, journal articles and reports. ESRI publications are available to download, free of charge, from its website. Additionally, ESRI staff communicate research findings at regular conferences and seminars.

The ESRI is a company limited by guarantee, answerable to its members and governed by a Council, comprising up to 14 members who represent a cross-section of ESRI members from academia, civil services, state agencies, businesses and civil society. The Institute receives an annual grant-in-aid from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to support the scientific and public interest elements of the Institute's activities; the grant accounted for an average of 30 per cent of the Institute's income over the lifetime of the last Research Strategy. The remaining funding comes from research programmes supported by government departments and agencies, public bodies and competitive research programmes.

Further information is available at www.esri.ie.



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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 policymaking.

The extent of public policy challenges and the need for evidence were clear throughout 2022, partly as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The conflict led to a number of challenges for many countries, including Ireland, such as energy price increases, broader cost-of-living increases and the arrival of many Ukrainian refugees.

In the pages of this review, you will find details of our work in 2022 so it is not necessary for me to provide a comprehensive overview here. However, I will refer to a limited number of activities.

First, the energy price increases prompted a need for the Government to support households. Researchers at the Institute provided valuable analytical inputs by estimating the extent to which energy poverty was rising and by demonstrating how different approaches to energy subsidies could better target those households in greatest need.

Second, while the ESRI has often undertaken work on Northern Ireland and all-island issues, our work in this area continued to expand in 2022. Partly through our work with the Shared Island Unit of the Department of the Taoiseach, we were able

to produce important work on issues such as productivity and education in Northern Ireland. We also held a joint conference with Ulster University in Belfast to discuss the work on education.

Third, over the years the Institute has specialised in developing statistical models which are run and maintained with a view to answering questions on economic and social processes. Through 2022, we continued to draw on our macroeconomic model (COSMO) and our tax-welfare model (SWITCH) in analysing a range of policy challenges. However, with attention increasingly turning to climate, we made significant progress in developing our climate model (I3E) and in expanding the funding base which supports this development.

In 2022, we saw a broader return to our offices with the easing of Covid restrictions, while maintaining some of the benefits of remote working through a blended working model. In moving to this new model, we have ensured that certain key features of the ESRI remain in place.

First, 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.

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

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of two former colleagues in 2022 – Professor Jerry Sexton and Professor Chris Whelan. Jerry Sexton made significant contributions in areas such as migration and occupational forecasting and spent time on secondment to the OECD. Chris Whelan's work focused on poverty, deprivation and social exclusion and he made path-breaking contributions on topics such as the measurement of poverty. Both Jerry and Chris were enormously generous in mentorship roles, in addition to undertaking their own valuable work.

Finally, the passing of a current colleague always generates particular feelings of loss for an organisation and its staff and we suffered this sad experience in 2022 with the death of our colleague Elaine Byrne. Elaine was a key person in the Irish national contact point of the European Migration Network which is part of the ESRI. She is sadly missed.

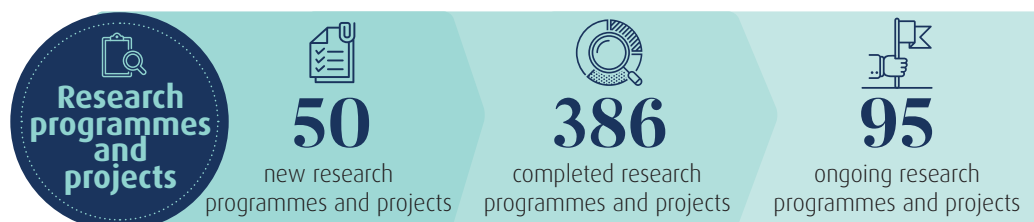


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Before concluding, I want to thank our funders, our Whitaker Patrons, our corporate members and our research partners for their valuable support. I would like to acknowledge in particular the grant provided by the Department of Public Expenditure and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

Professor Alan Barrett
Director of the ESRI

The Year in Numbers





Events

Conferences and events help the ESRI engage with wider audiences and allow us to build stronger relationships with policymakers, funders, other members of the research community, the media and civil society. While 2020 and 2021 necessitated a pivot to online events, 2022 saw a return to in-person events alongside hybrid and solely online gatherings.

Most of our 2022 events were related to report launches and dissemination of ongoing and previous research. However, we also invited external researchers to present their work to us and the public at seminars. In the autumn, we travelled to Belfast to present the findings of the Shared Island report 'A North-South comparison of education and training systems: lessons for policy' to an audience of stakeholders at an event co-hosted by Ulster University.

Some of the events listed below were recorded and can be watched on the ESRI YouTube channel. We also have slides from presentations available on the ESRI website.

JANUARY

Report launches:

- Public understanding of climate change and support for mitigation (online)

FEBRUARY

Conferences and public events:

- Growing Up in Ireland Data Workshop (online)

MARCH

Report launches:

- Children of migrants: how are they faring? (online)
- Shared Island: An analysis of the Primary Care systems of Ireland and Northern Ireland (online)

APRIL

Report launches:

- Origin and Integration: Housing and Family among Migrants in Ireland (online)
- Shared Island - A North-South comparison of education and training systems: lessons for policy (online)

Conferences and public events:

- The Energy-Water nexus: Demand response and biogas production from wastewater treatment plants on the Irish integrated energy system (online)

MAY

Conferences and public events:

- Growing Up in Ireland Annual Research Conference 2022 (online)
- 10th MaREI Climate & Energy Research Seminar (online)

JUNE

Report launches:

- Disrupted Transitions? Young Adults and the COVID-19 Pandemic (online)
- Energy poverty and deprivation in Ireland (hybrid)
- Measuring and Tackling Poverty (Dublin)
- Budget Perspectives 2023 (Dublin)

Conferences and public events:

- Blockchain Skills Conference (online)
- Application of ethical principles for the design of Just Transition policies (online)

JULY

Report launches:

- Future Trends in Housing Tenure and the Adequacy of Retirement Income (online)

SEPTEMBER

Report launches:

- Unequal Chances? Inequalities in Mortality in Ireland (online)

Conferences and public events:

- Post-Budget Briefing (Dublin)

OCTOBER

Report launches:

- Shared Island – A North-South comparison of education and training systems (Belfast)
- Intergenerational poverty in Ireland on International Day of Poverty (Dublin)
- Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland: 2nd annual report (hybrid)
- Predicting the Probability of Long-Term Unemployment and Recalibrating Ireland's Statistical Profiling Model (Dublin)

NOVEMBER

Report launches:

- The changing social worlds of 9-year-olds (online)
- The Global Emissions Impact of Irish Consumption (Dublin)
- Shared Island - Productivity levels in Ireland and Northern Ireland (online)

Conferences and public events:

- Energy Poverty: defining, measuring and examining recent trends in Ireland (Dublin)

DECEMBER

Report launches:

- All-island coordination of energy infrastructure and renewable energy supports (online)

Conferences and public events:

- Joint UCD-ESRI Research Seminar: Borders, Trajectories and Children: U.S. Integration of Migrant and Refugee Minors (Dublin)

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(L to R) ESRI Director Professor Alan Barrett, Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe T.D., ESRI Chair Sean O'Driscoll, and ESRI Research Area Coordinator for the Tax, Welfare and Pensions team Dr. Karina Doorley at Budget Perspectives 2023 on 10 June 2022. This annual conference is a discussion of policy issues related to the national Budget.



(L to R) ESRI Director Professor Alan Barrett and Community Foundation for Ireland Chief Executive Denise Charlton at the launch of the Community Foundation for Ireland/ESRI report Energy poverty and deprivation in Ireland on 16 June 2022.



(L to R) Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath T.D., Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe T.D., and ESRI Director Professor Alan Barrett. On 20 June, 2022, Prof. Barrett chaired the National Economic Dialogue 2022. The Dialogue is the principal institutional forum for public consultation and discussion on the Budget. This annual stakeholder engagement event is hosted jointly by the Department of Finance and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.



(L to R) ESRI Director Professor Alan Barrett, ESRI Senior Research Officer Dr. Karina Doorley, ESRI Research Professor Kieran McQuinn and ESRI Research Officer Barra Roantree at the Post-Budget Briefing on 30 September 2022. Members of the ESRI's Tax, Welfare and Pensions and Macroeconomics teams presented an assessment of the likely economic effects and impact on households of the tax and welfare measures announced in Budget 2023.



Research Areas



Behavioural Science



Research Area Coordinator:

Pete Lunn

Researchers working in this area in 2022:

Deirdre Robertson, Shane Timmons, Olga Poluektova, Féidhlim McGowan, Kieran Mohr, Ciarán Lavin, Ylva Andersson, Alexandros Papadopoulos

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

The BRU undertook two studies to measure how people in Ireland understand climate change and how this relates to support for climate action. The first, funded by **AIB**, revealed that, while the large majority of adults in Ireland believe in human-caused climate change and worry about it, they do not know which behaviours have large or small climate impacts. Improved basic knowledge led to greater willingness to support higher carbon taxes. The second study, commissioned by the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, showed that young people (aged 16-24) support radical government action on climate change and become more motivated to act when informed about how much older people also care about the climate.

The BRU partnered with **Bank of Ireland** in work commissioned by the **Competition and Consumer Protection Commission** to carry out a large randomised controlled trial designed to raise savings rates among households vulnerable to financial shocks. The team used findings from behavioural science to redesign online savings account application forms and marketing. The interventions increased uptake of savings accounts by 20-40%, with the largest effects among low-income households.

In work funded by the **Department of Health**, the BRU designed an experiment to test whether a front-of-pack nutritional label, "Nutri-Score", would lead consumers to make more healthy purchases. The study confirmed that the label is effective in improving consumer choices, with an additional impact likely due to food companies shifting to products with better Nutri-Scores.

Until June 2022, the BRU continued to deliver the Social Activity Measure (SAM)

for the **Department of the Taoiseach**, informing the ongoing pandemic response via an anonymous fortnightly assessment of people's social activities. The BRU's work on COVID-19 also included an experiment showing that people underestimated the effectiveness of the vaccine, and a review of successful vaccine promotion, for the **Department of Health**.

Other BRU work in 2022 included: investigating why consumers struggle to choose the best-value financial products, for the **Department of Finance**; designing and testing an improved comparison tool to help people choose more appropriate health insurance, for the **Health Insurance Authority (HIA)**; and undertaking a diagnostic study of people's understanding of and willingness to engage with domestic waste separation, for the **EPA**.

“
Improved basic
knowledge
about climate
change led
to greater
willingness to
support higher
carbon taxes.



Journal Articles

An experimental approach to measuring consumer preferences for water charges, *Utilities Policy*, Vol. 76, June 2022, Elsevier, Cameron Belton, Deirdre Robertson, Pete Lunn.

Behavioral pre-testing of COVID Tracker, Ireland's contact-tracing app, *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration*, Vol. 5, No. 1, 2022, JBPA, Hannah Julienne, Ciarán Lavin, Cameron Belton, Martina Barjaková, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn.

Behavioural science and the Covid-19 pandemic: How understanding human behaviour helps policymakers in times of crisis, *Sistemi intelligenti*, Issue 2, August 2022, pp. 309-327, Il Mulino, Martina Barjaková, Pete Lunn.

Experimental pre-tests of public health communications on the COVID-19 vaccine: A null finding for medical endorsement, risk and altruism, *Vaccine*, Vol. 40, Issue 27, June 2022, pp. 3788-3796, Elsevier, Deirdre Robertson, Kieran Mohr, Martina Barjaková, Pete Lunn.

Interventions to Increase Physical Activity: A Review of Behavioural Mechanisms, *Preventive Medicine Reports*, Vol. 28, August 2022, Elsevier, Laura Gormley, Cameron Belton, Pete Lunn, Deirdre Robertson.

Is It Riskier to Meet 100 People Outdoors or 14 People Indoors? Comparing Public and Expert Perceptions of COVID-19 Risk, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, 2022, American Psychological Association, Shane Timmons, Cameron Belton, Deirdre Robertson, Martina Barjaková, Ciarán Lavin, Hannah Julienne, Pete Lunn.

Public misperceptions of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and waning: experimental evidence from Ireland, *Public Health*, Vol. 214, January, 2023, pp. 81-84, Elsevier, Pete Lunn, Shane Timmons.



Reports and Other Publications

Public understanding of climate change and support for mitigation, ESRI Research Series No. 135, ESRI, Dublin, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn.

Youth knowledge and perceptions of climate mitigation, ESRI Research Series No. 153, ESRI, Dublin, Ylva Andersson, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn.



ESRI Research Bulletins

How emissions charges and fuel-efficiency information are presented alter consumer car choices, Áine Ní Choisdealbha, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn.

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



ESRI Working Papers

Assessing the impact of Nutri-Score labelling and product availability on consumer choice, Deirdre Robertson, Ylva Andersson, Pete Lunn.

Combining nudges and boosts to increase precautionary saving: A large-scale field experiment, Shane Timmons, Deirdre Robertson, Pete Lunn.

Framing climate change as a generational issue: Experimental effects on youth worry, motivation and belief in collective action, Shane Timmons, Ylva Andersson, Pete Lunn.

Primacy effects in the formation of opinions on an unfamiliar environmental topic: Experimental evidence from mineral exploration and mining, Olga Poluektova, Hannah Julianne, Deirdre Robertson, Aoife Braiden, Pete Lunn.

Understanding solutions to problem debt: an experimental investigation, Pete Lunn, Hannah Julianne, Cameron Belton, Shane Timmons.

Using information provision and interactive risk maps to motivate testing for radon, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn.



Other Papers

Social Activity Measure Wave 25, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.

Social Activity Measure Wave 26, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.

Social Activity Measure Wave 27, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.

Social Activity Measure Wave 28, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.

Social Activity Measure Wave 29, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.

Social Activity Measure Wave 30, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.

Social Activity Measure Wave 31, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.

Social Activity Measure Wave 32, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.

Social Activity Measure Wave 33, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.

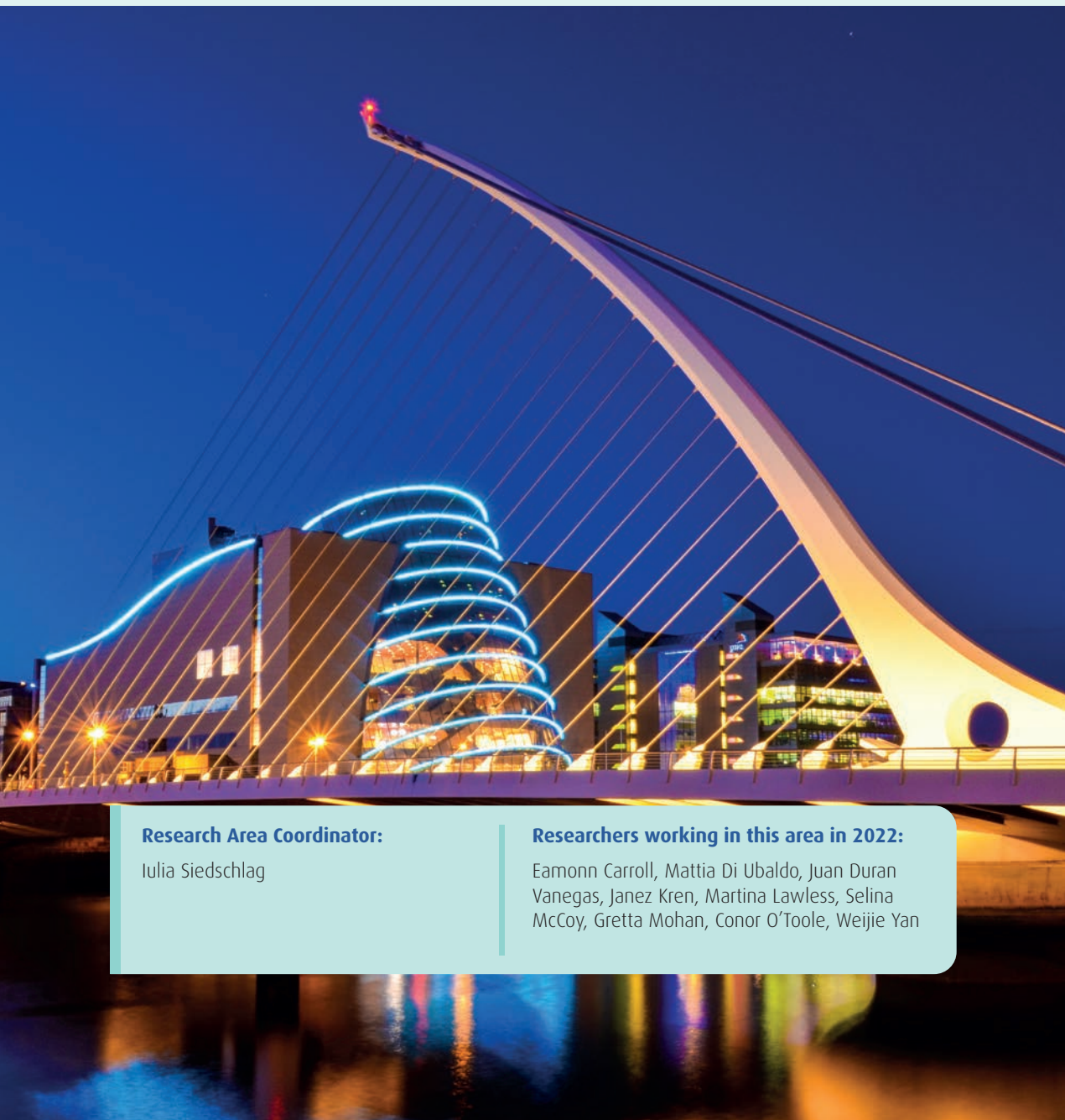
Social Activity Measure Wave 34, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.

Social Activity Measure Wave 35, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.

Social Activity Measure Wave 36, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, Pete Lunn.



Competitiveness, Trade and FDI



Research Area Coordinator:

Iulia Siedschlag

Researchers working in this area in 2022:

Eamonn Carroll, Mattia Di Ubaldo, Juan Duran Vanegas, Janez Kren, Martina Lawless, Selina McCoy, Gretta Mohan, Conor O'Toole, Weijie Yan

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 2022, research in this area addressed the following three overarching themes: challenges and opportunities for enterprises in the areas of digitalisation, sustainability, innovation and productivity; attractiveness to foreign direct investment (FDI) and associated economic, social and spatial effects; trade impacts of Brexit.

Research **funded by the European Commission** examined the economic importance of middle-sized companies (mid-caps, companies with at least 250 but fewer than 1,500 employees) in EU member states, and the specific challenges these companies face, particularly in the areas of innovation, digitalisation and sustainability. Key findings indicate that mid-caps grow faster than the average enterprise in most EU member states. Most mid-caps are active on markets outside the EU, and a considerable number are subsidiaries of foreign-owned multinationals. Among factors hampering the growth of mid-caps, most pressing are difficulties in finding employees, supply-chain disruptions, and regulation and administrative burden. Rising energy prices emerged as a major challenge for mid-caps in recent months.

Research funded by the **European Commission** published in 2022 examined spillovers from foreign affiliates of multinationals on the trade activities of Irish-owned firms. The results indicate that supply-chain linkages with foreign affiliates help Irish-owned firms to diversify their exports and imports, while a larger foreign presence in the same region is associated with a reduction of the number of products imported and exported by local firms. Engagement in research and development (R&D) activity allows local firms to mitigate some of the negative effects of the presence of foreign-owned firms in the same region,

and enhances the local firms' gains arising through supply-chain linkages.

Research funded by the **Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment** examined the potential overlap between increased use of digital technologies and climate adaptation strategies at a firm level. Key findings include: larger and more productive firms are more likely to have higher degrees of digitalisation, and to have climate action plans in place. This research also found a reasonably large share of firms that had positive attitudes to the importance of climate planning but did not report corresponding concrete actions, suggesting a gap for policy to address.

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The growth of middle-sized companies is being hampered by difficulties in finding employees, supply-chain disruptions, regulation and administrative burden.”



Research undertaken as part of this research area evaluated the impact of Brexit on trade between the EU and UK by analysing detailed product flows between the UK and EU. Taking into account changes in data methodology, this work found that, relative to the EU's trade with the rest of the world, Brexit had a substantial dampening effect on trade between the EU and UK compared to the scenario in which Brexit had not occurred.

Research was progressed in 2022, with results expected in 2023, on the diffusion of digital technologies and its impacts on the innovation and productivity of enterprises in Ireland. One strand of this research, focused on the diffusion of artificial intelligence, has been undertaken in partnership with a team of **OECD** economists.

Two research projects started in 2022, with results expected in 2023. Research funded by the **Department of Finance** examines the likely effects of the proposed global tax reforms on Ireland's attractiveness to FDI and the associated medium and long-term effects on the wider economy. A large-scale research project funded under the **European Commission's Horizon Europe Programme** examines the economic, social and spatial inequalities in the European Union in the

context of increased global challenges. The ESRI research team is part of a European Research Consortium comprising research organisations from ten EU countries and the UK.

Previous research in this area influenced the formulation of a number of policy initiatives and policy decisions in 2022. ESRI research on the attractiveness of the island of Ireland to high-value FDI, carried out in partnership with the **Department of the Taoiseach**, has influenced a number of policy initiatives aiming at increasing all-island public investment in R&D, such as the agreed Co-Centres for Research and Innovation and the North-South Research Programme in the higher-education sector, as well as policy formulation in the context of the 10x Trade and Investment Strategy in Northern Ireland. ESRI research on skills needs to support enterprise innovation and the transition to a low-carbon economy, undertaken in partnership with **Skillnet Ireland**, has informed the design and launching of a *Sustainability Leaders Programme* that supports enterprise leaders in integrating sustainability into their business strategy. The programme is offered by the Climate Ready Academy in partnership with Chambers Ireland and Skillnet Ireland.



**Larger and more productive firms
are more likely to have higher
degrees of digitalisation and to
have climate action plans in place.**



Journal Articles

Could spillovers from multinationals affect the trade activities of local firms?, *Economic Letters*, Vol. 221, December 2022, Elsevier, Mattia Di Ubaldo, Iulia Siedschlag.

Do green investments improve firm performance? Empirical evidence from Ireland, *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, Vol. 186, Part B, January 2023, Elsevier, Iulia Siedschlag, Weijie Yan.

Enabling green innovations for the circular economy: What factors matter?, *Sustainability*, Vol. 14(19), 12314, September 2022, MDPI, Iulia Siedschlag, Stefano Meneto, Manuel, Tong Koecklin



Reports and Other Publications

Study to map, measure and portray the EU mid-caps landscape, European Commission, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, Bernhard Dachs, Iulia Siedschlag, Weijie Yan, Maria Yoveska, Fernanda Boeira, Sean Ivory.

Talent for Ireland's green economy: Examining skills needs to support enterprise innovation and Ireland's transition to a low carbon economy, Skillnet Ireland, Dublin, Iulia Siedschlag, Weijie Yan, Stefano Meneto.



ESRI Working Papers

How Brexit has changed EU-UK trade flows, Janez Kren, Martina Lawless.



ESRI Submissions

Submission to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Public Consultation on the preparation of the White Paper on Enterprise, Iulia Siedschlag, Martina Lawless, Conor O'Toole, Barra Roantree



Education



Research Area Coordinators:

Selina McCoy and Emer Smyth

Researchers working in this area in 2022:

Eamonn Carroll, Keyu Ye, Merike Darmody, Gretta Mohan, Míde Griffin, Seán Lyons, Iulia Siedschlag, Juan Duran Vanegas, Anne Devlin, Adele Bergin, Seamus McGuinness and Adele Whelan

The ESRI Education research area covers all levels of the Irish educational system, including early childhood education, primary, second-level, and further and higher education.

Research in 2022 focused on educational inequality, educational outcomes among migrant-origin children, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and policy and provision for students with additional needs. The work spans cross-national research and studies focusing on education in Ireland.

In October, the **European Commission** Expert Group on Quality Investment in Education and Training, of which one ESRI researcher was a member, published its final report. It highlighted the need for early intervention to ensure educational equity and criticised the role of school segregation and ability tracking in reinforcing inequality.

Comparative research undertaken for the **Shared Island Unit** with colleagues in the labour market research area showed higher rates of early school-leaving and greater levels of intergenerational inequality in Northern Ireland than in Ireland. Interviews with key stakeholders highlighted common challenges in the two jurisdictions around ensuring educational equity and inclusion.

Based on **Growing Up in Ireland** data, two papers showed that young people with special educational needs (SENs) were more likely to leave school early and less likely to plan to attend higher education than students without SEN. Distinguishing among different kinds of SEN, results also show that higher-education entry was lower among those with socio-emotional difficulties, even after controlling for key characteristics.

As part of a research programme with the **Department of Children, Equality, Diversity, Integration and Youth**, a report published in March shows that migrant-origin children made considerable progress in English language development between three and nine years of age, though average

reading scores remained lower at nine than among Irish-origin children. Comparing nine-year-olds born a decade apart, a report published in November indicated that gender differences in attitudes to Maths widened over time while inequalities by social background in reading for pleasure increased. A third report under this programme, published in June, documented the disruption caused by the pandemic to engagement in further and higher education and the negative effects on mental health among young adults.

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Young people with special educational needs (SEN) were more likely to leave school early and less likely to plan to attend higher education than students without SEN.



Work for the **National Council for Special Education** on a large-scale study on post-school pathways among young people with special educational needs continued. The study will be important in shaping provision for students with additional needs in special and mainstream schools and across the post-school landscape.

A new mixed-method study for **the Joint Managerial Body** Secretariat of Secondary Schools began in September. The study will provide a broad answer to the question of what voluntary secondary schools provide to students and the community across different contexts and settings.

Work continued on the PIONEERED study, a **Horizon 2020**-funded project on educational inequality across Europe. Work also began on the ESSPIN study, a **Horizon Europe**-funded study on social, economic and spatial inequalities in the European Union in the context of increased global challenges.



Journal Articles

Educationally maintained inequality? The role of risk factors and resilience at 9, 13 and 17 in disabled young people's post-school pathways at 20, *Irish Educational Studies*, Vol. 41, No. 3, pp. 573-594, Taylor & Francis, Eamonn Carroll, Keyu Ye, Selina McCoy.

Engagement of international students at Irish Higher Education institutions, *Journal of International Students*, Vol. 12, No. 4, 2022, Star Scholars Network, Merike Darmody, Sarah Groake, Georgiana Mihut.

Ethno-cultural diversity in initial teacher education courses: the case of Ireland, *Irish Educational Studies*, Taylor & Francis, Alannah Hannigan, Daniel Faas, Merike Darmody.

Exploring cumulative disadvantage in early school leaving and planned post-school pathways among those identified with special educational needs in Irish primary schools, *British Educational Research Journal*, Vol. 48, Issue 6, December 2022, Wiley, Eamonn Carroll, Selina McCoy, Georgiana Mihut.

How field experience shapes pre-service primary teachers' technology integration knowledge and practice, *Teacher Development*, Vol. 26, Issue 4, 2022, pp. 567-586, Taylor & Francis, Selina McCoy, Aoife Lynam.

Inequalities in children's skills on primary school entry in Ireland and Scotland: do home learning environment and early childhood childcare explain these differences?, *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, Vol. 14, Issue 1, 2022, pp. 48-72, Bristol University Press, Emer Smyth, Adriana Duta.

The long road to secondary school: background, home learning environment, and transition difficulties in Scotland, *Research Papers in Education*, Taylor & Francis, Emer Smyth, Ivan Privalko.

Social differentiation in career decision-making processes, *Oxford Review of Education*, Routledge, Emer Smyth



Reports and Other Publications

A North-South comparison of education and training systems: Lessons for policy, ESRI Research Series No. 138, ESRI, Dublin, Emer Smyth, Anne Devlin, Adele Bergin, Seamus McGuinness.

Interim report of the Commission expert group on quality investment in education and training, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, Gabrielle Fack, Tommaso Agasisti, Xavier Bonal, Kristof De Witte, Dieter Dohmen, Sanne Haase, Jan Hylen, Selina McCoy, Mariya Neycheva, Maria Carmen Pantea, Francesco Pastore, Attila Pausits, Kaire Poder, Jaana Puukka, Julie Velissaratou.

Investing in our future: Quality investment in education and training, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, Gabrielle Fack [Chair], Tommaso Agasisti, Xavier Bonal, Kristof De Witte, Dieter Dohmen, Sanne Haase, Jan Hylen, Selina McCoy, Mariya Neycheva, Maria-Carmen Pantea, Francesco Pastore, Attila Pausits, Kaire Poder, Jaana Puukka, Julie Velissaratou.



Chapters in Books and Reports

New insights on Irish and European education from ESRI research, *Ireland's Education Yearbook 2022*, Education Matters, Dublin, Selina McCoy, Keyu Ye.



ESRI Research Bulletins

Cumulative disadvantage in post-school plans and pathways among those identified with special educational needs in Irish primary schools, Eamonn Carroll, Selina McCoy, Georgiana Mihut, Keyu Ye.

The long road to secondary school: background, home learning environment and transition difficulties, Emer Smyth, Ivan Privalko.



ESRI Working Papers

Shadow education uptake among final year students in Irish secondary schools: Wellbeing in a high stakes context, Selina McCoy, Delma Byrne.



Energy, Environment and Infrastructure



Research Area Coordinators:

John Curtis, Seán Lyons, and Anne Nolan

Researchers working in this area in 2022:

Marta Alvaro-Taus, Ylva Andersson, Stefano Ceolotto, Kelly De Bruin, Katie Duffy, Niall Farrell, Tensay Hadush Meles, Loïc Henry, Aislinn Hoy, Genaro Longoria, Muireann Lynch, Amélie Maddock, David Meier, Cathal Menton, Gretta Mohan, Wellington Osawe, Arya Pillai, Constantine Spandagos, Miguel Tovar Reaños, Shane Timmons, Brendan Walsh, Aykut Mert Yakut

Energy and Climate research is funded by the **Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)**, **Commission for Regulation of Utilities, ESB, Gas Networks Ireland, EirGrid, SSE Ireland, Viridian, Terra Solar, Community Foundation for Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)** and the **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland**. Research related to the environment is funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)** and the **Climate Health Alliance (CHA)**, while 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 continued the development of its analytical model, Ireland Environment, Energy and Economy (I3E), and produced several research outputs, including an assessment of the impact of aviation taxation, as well as the distributional impacts of switching from value-added tax (VAT) to carbon tax. Research also calculated Ireland's carbon emissions assessed on a consumption rather than a production basis, finding that Ireland's emissions calculated on a consumption basis are 76% higher than those calculated on a production basis.

Research by the ESRI's Energy Policy Research Centre spans topics such as residential energy efficiency, energy poverty, and electricity markets. Research on green hydrogen within the electricity sector demonstrated the potential for arbitrage opportunities and strategic trading among firms across day-ahead and balancing markets, and that electrolyser firms can potentially play a significant role in electricity system balancing. Research on planning and regulatory delays in the energy sector illustrates the impact on increased system costs and prices, as well as that on delivery of 2030 emissions targets. Several studies examined implications for energy poverty in the context of the cost-of-living crisis, including demonstrating which

policy response (e.g. welfare payments, cutting direct taxation, or lump-sum payments) is most effective at tackling energy poverty. Research on residential Building Energy Ratings (BERs) suggests that directly linking policy targets to a specific BER standard (i.e. B2) may lead to a CO₂ emissions outcome substantially different from that envisaged.

A further two-year extension to the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** research programme on environmental economics was agreed in 2022, with 14 projects covering topics in behavioural



Research which calculated Ireland's emissions on a consumption rather than production basis found that consumption-based emissions were 76% higher than production-based emissions.



science, health and climate included in the new programme. During 2022, research on farm technical efficiency and environmental payments, and on green investments and firm performance was published. The ESRI continued to provide evidence for the EPA radon control programme, with behavioural research on the design of the new radon risk map for Ireland published in March 2022. The **EPA**-funded NOISE-HEALTH project finished in 2022, with the publication of the final report. Other research from that project, released in August 2022, used data from the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) to show that exposure to road traffic noise was associated with lower quality of life among the older population in Dublin and Cork. A new project on the health effects of climate change, funded by the **Climate Health Alliance**, commenced in 2022.

The water research programme, in collaboration with **DHLGH**, examined farmers' attitudes and motivations behind responding to water pollution mitigation actions within the context of the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP). Research in the electronic communications research programme funded by **DECC** and **ComReg** examined gambling among young people, finding a strong association between higher rates of gambling and male participants in team sports.

This research area hosted nine public conferences, webinars or seminars, including giving evidence to Oireachtas committees during 2022.



Research examining gambling behaviour among young people found a strong association between higher rates of gambling and male participants in team sports.



Journal Articles

Achieving the unprecedented: Modelling diffusion pathways for ambitious climate policy targets, *Energy and Climate Change*, Vol. 3, December 2022, Elsevier, Tomás Mac Uidhir, Brian Ó Gallachóir, John Curtis, Fionn Rogan.

Adoption of renewable home heating systems: An agent-based model of heat pumps in Ireland, *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, Vol. 169, November 2022, Elsevier, Tensay Hadush Meles, Lisa Ryan.

An evaluation of public initiatives to change behaviours that affect water quality, *Environmental Policy and Governance*, Wiley, Gianluca Grilli, John Curtis.

Concern for animals, other farmers, or oneself? Assessing farmers' support for a policy to improve animal welfare, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 2022, Wiley, Doris Läpple, Wellington Osawe.

Economic analysis of biosecurity adoption in dairy farming: evidence from Ireland, *Journal of Animal Science*, Vol. 100, Issue 9, September 2022, Oxford University Press, Wellington Osawe, Doris Läpple, John F. Mee.

Enabling green innovations for the circular economy: What factors matter?, *Sustainability*, Vol. 14, No. 19, 2022, MDPI, Iulia Siedschlag, Stefano Meneto, Manuel Tong Koecklin.

Examining food preferences in the face of environmental pressures, *Journal of Agriculture and Food Research*, Vol. 11, March 2023, Elsevier, Wellington Osawe, Gianluca Grilli, John Curtis.

Farm technical and environmental efficiency and subsidy redistribution in Ireland: A simulation approach of possible performance and equity effects, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 2022, Wiley, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Miguel Tovar Reaños.

Implications of heating sector electrification on the Irish power system in view of the Climate Action Plan, *Energy Policy*, Vol. 168, September 2022, Elsevier, Ankita Singh Gaur, Desta Zahlay Fitiwi, Muireann Á. Lynch, Genaro Longoria.

Intra-operator mobile plan switching: Evidence from linked survey and billing microdata, *Telecommunications Policy*, Vol. 46, Issue 7, August 2022, Elsevier, Mide Griffin, Seán Lyons, Gretta Mohan, Merin Joseph, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, John Evans.

Knowledge and awareness of water quality protection issues within local authorities, *Environmental Science & Policy*, Vol. 135, September 2022, pp 46-57, Elsevier, Gianluca Grilli, John Curtis.

Low energy demand scenario for feasible deep decarbonisation: Whole energy systems modelling for Ireland, *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Transition*, Vol. 2, August 2022, Elsevier, Ankita Gaur, Olexandr Balyk, James Glynn, John Curtis, Hannah Daly.

Modelling barriers to low-carbon technologies in energy system analysis: The example of renewable heat in Ireland, *Applied Energy*, Vol. 330, Part A, January 2023, Elsevier, Tong Zhu, John Curtis, Matthew Clancy.

Public acceptance of sustainable energy innovations in the European Union: A multidimensional comparative framework for national policy, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, Vol. 340, March 2022, 130721, Elsevier, Constantine Spandagos, Miguel Angel Tovar Reaños, Muireann Á. Lynch.

The association between E. coli exceedances in drinking water supplies and healthcare utilisation of older people, *PLoS ONE*, Vol. 17, Issue 9, 2022, PLoS, Gretta Mohan, Seán Lyons.



The benefits of action on implementing carbon taxation in Ireland: a demand system approach, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, Vol 66, Issue 4, 2023, Taylor & Francis, Miguel Tovar Reaños, Muireann Á. Lynch.

The distributional impacts of environmental reforms on private transportation in Ireland, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 53 No. 1, Spring, 2022, Economic and Social Studies, Miguel A. Tovar Reaños.

The impacts of aviation taxation in Ireland, *Case Studies on Transport Policy*, Vol. 10, Issue 4, December 2022, Elsevier, pp. 2218-2228, Elsevier, Kelly C De Bruin, Aykut Mert Yakut.



Reports and Other Publications

All-island coordination of energy infrastructure and renewable energy supports, ESRI Research Series No. 155, ESRI, Dublin, Cathal Menton, Genaro Longoria, Niall Farrell, Muireann Lynch.

Environmental transport noise and health: Evidence from Ireland (Noise-Health) , EPA Research Report No. 423, EPA, Wexford, Enda Murphy, Jon-Paul Faulkner, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, Seán Lyons, Anne Nolan, Owen Douglas.

Scoping papers for research on 'The economic and social opportunities from increased cooperation on the Shared Island', ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 112, ESRI, Dublin, Adele Bergin, Sarah Curristan, Niall Farrell, James Laurence, Muireann Á. Lynch, Fran McGinnity, Seamus McGuinness Helen Russell, Emer Smyth.



ESRI Research Bulletins

An examination of energy efficiency retrofit scheme applications by low-income households in Ireland, Arya Pillai, Miguel Tovar Reaños, John Curtis.

Are fuel poverty metrics fit for purpose? Evidence from Ireland, Miguel Tovar Reaños, Muireann Á. Lynch.

Decarbonising heat through electricity: costs, benefits and trade-offs for the Irish power system, Ankita Singh Gaur, Desta Zahlay Fitiwi, Muireann Á. Lynch, Genaro Longoria.

E. coli in drinking water supplies and healthcare utilisation of older people, Gretta Mohan, Seán Lyons.

Environmental subsidies and farm economic and environmental performance, Miguel A. Tovar Reaños, Maria Martinez Cillero.

Gathering support for carbon taxation by combining transfers with lower income taxes, Rick van der Ploeg, Armon Rezai, Miguel Tovar Reaños.

How mobile phone customers fare when staying with their operator but switching plan, Míde Griffin, Seán Lyons, Gretta Mohan.

Market-based policies, citizen attitudes and education positively affect green energy innovation acceptance in Ireland and Europe, Constantine Spandagos, Miguel Angel Tovar Reaños, Muireann Á. Lynch.

Quality-of-life and risk of loneliness among older people with varying digital technology engagement, Gretta Mohan, Seán Lyons.

Road traffic noise, quality of life and mental health among older adults, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, Owen Douglas, Seán Lyons, Enda Murphy, Anne Nolan.

Spatial scenarios of potential electric vehicle adopters in Ireland, Arya Pillai, John Curtis, Miguel Tovar Reaños.

The benefits of action on implementing carbon taxation in Ireland, Miguel A. Tovar Reaños, Muireann Á. Lynch.

The heterogeneous effects of carbon taxation in Ireland, Miguel A. Tovar Reaños, Muireann Á. Lynch.



ESRI Working Papers

Diminishing deadweight loss through energy subsidy cost recovery, Niall Farrell, John Humes.

Economic and Distributional Impacts of turning the Value-Added Tax into a Carbon Tax, Miguel A. Tovar Reaños, Kelly de Bruin, David Meier, Aykut Mert Yakut.

Fuel poverty in Ireland: an analysis of trends and profiles, Arya Pillai, Miguel Tovar Reaños, John Curtis.

How well do building energy performance certificates predict heat loss?, Tensay Hadush Meles, Niall Farrell, John Curtis.

Model of strategic electrolysis firms in energy, ancillary services and hydrogen markets, Genaro Longoria, Muireann Á. Lynch, Mel Devine, John Curtis.

The global emissions impact of Irish consumption, Kelly de Bruin, Aykut Mert Yakut.

The impact of planning and regulatory delays for major energy infrastructure, Genaro Longoria, Muireann Á. Lynch, Niall Farrell, John Curtis.



ESRI Submissions

Submission on CRU's Electricity Network Tariffs 2022/23 — National Energy Security Framework Response Proposals, Niall Farrell, Muireann Á. Lynch.



Other Papers

Energy state aid: a toolbox on counterfactual impact evaluation, European Commission, Luxembourg, Niall Farrell.



Growing Up in Ireland



Research Area Coordinator:

Emer Smyth

Researchers working in this area in 2022:

Aisling Murray, Amanda Quail, Bernadette Ryan, Caroline Goodwin, Elizabeth Burke, Aoife Murphy, Eoin McNamara, Fionnuala Waters, Eoin Keogh, Desmond O'Mahony, Lisa Kelly, Solange Diani, Ruth Gallagher, Adam Nolan, Brendan Duggan, Orlaith Hennessy, Jennifer Downey

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 ESRI and Trinity College Dublin. The study covers two cohorts: Cohort '98 (who have been followed from nine years of age) and Cohort '08 (followed from nine months old).

The year 2022 saw the completion of fieldwork with Cohort '08 at 13 years of age and the publication of a research needs report in collaboration with DCEDIY. This research needs report was intended to inform the nature and content of the fifth wave of data collection at 25 years of age for Cohort '98. It drew on a review of literature and policy documents, a survey of, and consultation with, the Scientific Advisory Group and relevant policy stakeholders, and focus groups with adults in their mid-20s to identify the priorities for data collection. The report was structured according to core areas of research

interest: education/training; labour market experiences and income; physical health; mental and socio-emotional wellbeing; relationships; civic engagement; concerns and aspirations. The technical report on the pilot for Cohort '08 at 13 years of age was also published online.

The 2022 Annual Conference in May was a virtual event, opened by Minister Dr Roderic O'Gorman TD. The keynote address was given by Professor Alissa Goodman, University College London, and the research needs report on 25-year-olds was launched at the conference. In addition, there were seven presentations using Growing Up in Ireland data. ESRI researchers presented papers on post-school pathways among young people with special educational needs, higher-education entry among migrant-origin youth, digital skills, science take-up and online contact.

At the end of 2022, the GUI study and members of the study team made the transition to DCEDIY and the Central Statistics Office. The transition was marked by a farewell event on 6 November.



Journal Articles

The effect of pandemic-related economic disruption on young adolescents in Ireland, *Children*, Vol. 9, No. 7, 2022, MDPI, Emer Smyth, Aisling Murray.



Reports and Other Publications

Growing Up in Ireland: Research Needs for Wave 5: Age 25, Cohort 98, ESRI/TCD/DCEDIY, Dublin, Emer Smyth, Aisling Murray, Eoin McNamara, Desmond O'Mahony, Adam Nolan, Brendan Duggan, James Shaw.

The changing social worlds of 9-year-olds, ESRI Research Series No. 151, ESRI, Dublin, Emer Smyth.



ESRI Research Bulletins

The effect of the pandemic on adolescent wellbeing in Ireland, Emer Smyth, Aisling Murray.



Health and Quality of Life



Research Area Coordinators:

Anne Nolan and Sheelah Connolly

Researchers working in this area in 2022:

Aoife Brick, Katie Duffy, Ellen Flanagan, Míde Griffin, Leonie Hill, Aislinn Hoy, Harry Humes, Conor Keegan, Pete Lunn, Sean Lyons, Bertrand Maître, Gretta Mohan, Aisling Murray, Emer Smyth, Shane Timmons, Brendan Walsh, Maev-Ann Wren

Health research was carried out in the areas of health service reform and public health during 2022. Health service research focused on further developments of the Hippocrates projection model of healthcare demand and expenditure. Other work in this area examined the cost implications of extending eligibility for GP care free at the point of use, and the sustainability of the long-term residential care sector. Public health research examined socio-economic inequalities in mortality, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of younger people, and the impact of environmental conditions on health and wellbeing.

Published in June, using data from the special COVID-19 surveys from Growing Up in Ireland (GUI), research funded by the **Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth** found that 40% of 22-year-old men and 55% of 22-year-old women were classified as depressed in December 2020. These were much higher figures than two years previously when 22% of men and 31% of women were classified as depressed.

Research funded by the **Health Service Executive** using the ESRI's Hippocrates Model was published in July. The research examined public acute hospital workforce requirements across regions of Ireland and found that substantial expansion of the hospital workforce will be required across all regions and all staff categories up to 2035.

In September, a report examining inequalities in mortality was published. Funded by the **Institute of Public Health**, the research found that, while mortality rates have fallen substantially over time in Ireland, inequalities between different groups in the population remain. For example, in 2018 the mortality rate for adults in the least advantaged socio-economic group was twice as high as that in the most advantaged group. African-born mothers were found to have significantly higher rates of perinatal mortality than all other groups.

Published in September, research funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency** used data from the Irish Longitudinal Study of Ageing to examine the association between E. coli exceedances in drinking water supplies

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Four in ten 22-year-old men and over half (55%) of 22-year-old women were classified as depressed in December 2020.



and healthcare utilisation among older people. The research found that, where *E. coli* was detected in water, there was a greater likelihood of increased utilisation of a range of healthcare services, including GP and emergency department visits, and nights spent in hospital.

In 2022, work continued on a **Health Research Board** (HRB)-funded project examining the sustainability of long-term residential care. A new research project focusing on the impact of minimum unit alcohol pricing commenced in September, while a new research programme on workforce projections, funded by the **Health Service Executive**, started in December. Two new research projects commenced in December, examining mental health and wellbeing from childhood to adolescence, funded by the **HRB**, and sexual health and wellbeing in young adulthood, funded by the **HSE**.

In October, researchers addressed the Seanad Public Consultation Committee on the Constitutional Future of the Island of Ireland and the Women's Parliamentary Caucus.



A significant expansion of the hospital workforce will be required across all regions and all staff categories up to 2035.



Journal Articles

A longitudinal examination of young people's gambling behaviours and participation in team sports, *Finance Research Letters*, Vol. 51, January 2023, Springer, Gretta Mohan, Brendan Duggan.

Development of a risk assessment profile tool to determine appropriate use of SARS-CoV-2 rapid antigen detection tests for different activities and events in Ireland, since October 2021, *EuroSurveillance*, Vol. 27 (3), 2022, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Patrick Mallon, Mary Horgan, Conor G. McAloon, Pete Lunn, Julian Little, Andrew Beck, Alexandria Bennett, Nicole Shaver, Aileen McConway, Rhea O'Regan, Barbara Whelan.

High-speed broadband availability, Internet activity among older people, quality of life and loneliness, *New Media & Society*, Sage, Gretta Mohan, Sean Lyons.

Perinatal mortality in Ireland: inequalities by socio-economic group and country of birth, *European Journal of Public Health*, 2022, Oxford University Press, Katie Duffy, Sheelah Connolly, Anne Nolan, Bertrand Maître.

Public health insurance and mortality in the older population: Evidence from the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing, *Health Policy*, Vol. 126, Issue 3, March 2022, pp. 190-196, Elsevier, Anne Nolan, Peter May, Soraya Matthews, Charles Normand, Rose Anne Kenny, Mark Ward.

Road traffic noise, quality of life, and mental distress among older adults: evidence from Ireland, *Cities and Health*, Vol. 6, Issue 3, 2022, Taylor & Francis, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, Owen Douglas, Seán Lyons, Enda Murphy, Anne Nolan.

Supporting sustainable long-term residential care in Ireland: a study protocol for the Sustainable Residential Care (SRC) project, *HRB Open Res*, 2022, 5:30, HRB, Brendan Walsh, Sheelah Connolly, Maev-Ann Wren, Leonie Hill.

Universal primary care in Ireland: Cost and workforce implications, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 53 No. 4, Winter, 2022, Economic and Social Studies, Sheelah Connolly, Maev-Ann Wren, Conor Keegan, Abián García Rodríguez.

What is the impact of multimorbidity on out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure among community-dwelling older adults in Ireland? A cross-sectional study, *BMJ Open*, Vol. 12, Issue 9, BMJ Publishing Group Ltd, James Larkin, Brendan Walsh, Frank Moriarty, Barbara Clyne, Patricia Harrington, Susan M. Smith.



Reports and Other Publications

An analysis of the primary care systems of Ireland and Northern Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 137, ESRI, Dublin, Sheelah Connolly, Aoife Brick, Ciarán O'Neill, Michael O'Callaghan.

Disrupted transitions: young adults during the COVID-19 pandemic, ESRI Research Series No. 142, ESRI, Dublin, Anne Nolan, Emer Smyth.

Home support services in Ireland: Exchequer and distributional impacts of funding options, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 111, ESRI, Dublin, Claire Keane, Seán Lyons, Mark Regan, Brendan Walsh.

Projections of workforce requirements for public acute hospitals in Ireland, 2019–2035: a regional analysis based on the Hippocrates model, ESRI Research Series No. 147, ESRI, Dublin, Conor Keegan, Aoife Brick, Abián García-Rodríguez, Leonie Hill.

Unequal chances? Inequalities in mortality in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 145, ESRI, Dublin, Katie Duffy, Sheelah Connolly, Bertrand Maitre, Anne Nolan.



ESRI Research Bulletins

Perinatal mortality in Ireland: inequalities by socio-economic group and country of birth, Katie Duffy, Sheelah Connolly, Anne Nolan, Bertrand Maitre.

Personal assistance services in Ireland: A capability approach to understanding the lived experience of disabled people, Eamonn Carroll, Selina McCoy.

Universal primary care: cost and workforce implications, Sheelah Connolly, Maev-Ann Wren, Conor Keegan, Abián García Rodríguez.



Labour Market and Skills



Research Area Coordinators:

Seamus McGuinness

Researchers working in this area in 2022:

Adele Bergin, Klaus Caprikis, Anne Devlin, Elish Kelly,
Paul Redmond, Elisa Straffa, Adele Whelan

During 2022, research was undertaken on a range of issues and a number of new publications were either released or finalised. The team launched two reports, funded by the **Shared Island Unit** in the **Department of the Taoiseach**, examining cross-border differences in education and productivity.

Two studies, funded by the **Low Pay Commission**, were published on: (a) the heterogeneous impacts of minimum wage changes on hours worked and (b) a universal basic income for Ireland: evidence from the international literature.

Our study on universal basic income (UBI) reviewed the potential advantages and disadvantages of a UBI policy, in addition to setting out a range of recommendations for the design of any future UBI pilot in Ireland. In terms of potential advantages, a UBI would avoid situations where people choose not to work in order to retain means-tested benefits. It could give individuals the freedom to turn down or leave insecure, exploitative or low-paid work in pursuit of better employment opportunities. However, a UBI is likely to be very expensive, even if other existing benefits (such as unemployment benefits) are no longer required. We estimate that the implementation of a UBI in Ireland in 2019 could have involved a gross cost of close to €50 billion per year.

A study, funded by the **Department of Social Protection**, recalibrating the PEX statistical profiling model, which is currently in use in Intreo offices, has been completed and the team are currently assisting the department with model implementation.

Researchers have progressed work on a report on indicators for monitoring welfare levels in rural areas, funded by the **Department of Rural and Community Development**.

During the year the team also completed a study examining the link between area-level deprivation and the economic impacts of COVID-19 under a research programme

funded by **Pobal**.

Finally, in 2022 a new research programme focusing on labour market and skills issues in Ireland was signed between the ESRI and the **Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science**.

Work progressed on several EU-funded projects. A report completed under the **Erasmus+**-funded CHAISE project, forecasting the demand for and supply of blockchain workers in Europe, was published. We also completed work on a more detailed examination of the blockchain industry in Ireland, as part of a **Horizon 2020**-funded Untangled project. Research into youth unemployment in Europe commenced under a Cowork4YOUTH award financed by the **EEA Norway Grants Fund**.

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Implementing a
universal basic
income in Ireland
in 2019 could
have involved
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close to €50
billion a year.



The research carried out for the **Shared Island Unit** was highly innovative and represented the first all-island analysis of educational provision and productivity. The research on North/South education differences pointed to much higher levels of early school-leaving and lack of further education provision in Northern Ireland. The

success of Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) in combatting inequalities in educational opportunity was another key finding of the study. The publication on productivity demonstrated that a 40% gap in output per worker has emerged between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland over the past twenty years.



Journal Articles

The effectiveness of a second-chance education scheme as an unemployment activation measure: evidence from Ireland, *Journal of Education and Work*, Vol. 35, Issue 3, 2022, Taylor & Francis, Elish Kelly, Seamus McGuinness, Adele Bergin, Adele Whelan.

The impact of one-parent family payment reforms on the labour market outcomes of lone parents, *Oxford Economic Papers*, 2022, Oxford University Press, Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness, Claire Keane.



Reports and Other Publications

A Universal Basic Income for Ireland: Lessons from the international literature, ESRI Research Series No. 146, ESRI, Dublin, Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness, Klavs Ciprikis.

Annual Blockchain Skills Forecasts, 2022 CHAISE, Europe, Seamus McGuinness, Adele Whelan, Paul Redmond, Klavs Ciprikis.

Baseline study on impact of youth employment policies, Cowork4YOUTH, Attica, Elish Kelly, Dora Tuda, Adele Whelan, Kostas Gourzis, Athina Avagianou, Vasiliki Krommyda, Ainhua Oses, Nicola Vita, Maurizio Zammataro, Lea Battistoni, Valeria Lavano, Manolis Boniatis, Ioannis Papageorgiou, Erik Hansson, Kristina Zampoukos, Conor Judge.

Heterogeneous effects of a minimum wage increase on hours worked, ESRI Research Series No. 132, ESRI, Dublin, Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness.

Modelling productivity levels in Ireland and Northern Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 152, ESRI, Dublin, Adele Bergin, Seamus McGuinness.

Predicting the probability of long-term unemployment and recalibrating Ireland's Statistical Profiling Model, ESRI Research Series No. 149, ESRI, Dublin, Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond, Elish Kelly, Konstantina Maragkou.



The publication on productivity demonstrated that a 40% gap in output per worker has emerged between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland over the past twenty years.



Macroeconomics



Research Area Coordinators:

Martina Lawless and Kieran McQuinn

Researchers working in this area in 2022:

Adele Bergin, Wendy Disch, Paul Egan, Eoin Kenny, Akhilesh Kumar Verma, Janez Kren, Conor O'Toole, Eva Shiel, Rachel Slaymaker

As well as future prospects for the Irish economy, the macroeconomic research programme addressed issues such as the impact of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine on the performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs); links between the macroeconomy and financial sector; the housing market, and the all-Ireland economy. The macroeconomic division also engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders throughout 2022, including contributing to multiple Oireachtas committees.

The impact of the pandemic on the performance of SMEs, and the extent to which policy interventions mitigated its financial effects, was examined as part of the ongoing joint research programme between the ESRI and the **Department of Finance** and the **Revenue Commissioners**. Work in this area also examined the extent to which the immediate pressure of adjusting to the pandemic changed the incentives and resources that SMEs had available for investment across a range of asset types. This research programme included forthcoming work on the assessment of the impact of the war in Ukraine on the Irish economy, and investigation of rates of firm entry and exit.

The programme of research with the **Department of Finance** and the **Revenue Commissioners** also included work to expand the capability of the ESRI's macroeconomic model, COSMO, by developing a financial satellite to the model which will enable future work on economic scenarios to incorporate assessments of financial channels and potential financial stability risks. Research extending the inclusion of the construction sector into the COSMO model was also supported in 2022 by the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**.

Under the joint programme with the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**, research was produced considering the international evidence and Irish experience with rent stabilisation policies. The ESRI also continued

to produce the quarterly Rent Index for the **Residential Tenancies Board** through 2022. The index is used to determine which local electoral areas are designated as Rent Pressure Zones.

Research under the joint programme with the **Irish Business and Employers Confederation (Ibec)** focussed on the economy of Northern Ireland, the all-island economy and links to the wider UK and global economy. Specifically, a macroeconomic model of Northern Ireland is being developed in collaboration with the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR) in London. In addition, research has focussed on the structure of international goods trade for Ireland and Northern Ireland.



A significant focus of the commentary in 2022 was on the impact of the war in Ukraine and the effects of high inflation and subsequent monetary policy changes.



The Quarterly Economic Commentary (QEC) continues to provide analysis of recent economic developments in the Irish economy as well as short-term forecasts for key economic indicators. A strong focus of the QEC in 2022 was on the impact of the war in Ukraine and the effects of high inflation and subsequent monetary policy changes.

Additional research was produced on risks to domestic electricity supply, the contribution of the ICT sector in Ireland and the sustainability of corporate taxes. The year 2022 also saw the launch of a Nowcasting model to support the forecasting exercises completed in the commentary. Estimates from the nowcast are published in a monthly series.



Journal Articles

Back to the future? Macroprudential policy and the rebirth of local authority mortgages in Ireland, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 53 No. 4, Winter, 2022, *Economic and Social Studies*, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker.

Estimating the cost of housing in the Irish market: A rental equivalence approach, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 53, No. 2, Autumn 2022, *Economic and Social Studies*, Matthew Allen-Coughlan, Cathal Coffey, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Ilias Kostarakos, Kieran Quinn, Conor O'Toole.

Examining financial and business cycle interaction using cross recurrence plot analysis, *Finance Research Letters*, Vol. 51, January 2023, Elsevier, Sinéad Ashe, Paul Egan.

Nowcasting domestic demand using a dynamic factor model: the case of Ireland, *Applied Economics Letters*, 2022, Taylor & Francis, Paul Egan.

Regime switching and the responsiveness of prices to supply: The case of the Irish housing market, *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, Vol. 87, February 2023, pp. 82-94, Elsevier, Paul Egan, Kieran McQuinn.

Labour market fluctuations and the housing net worth channel in the EU, *De Economist*, 2022, David Cronin, Kieran McQuinn.

The housing net worth channel and the public finances: Evidence from a European country panel, *International Tax and Public Finance*, 2022, David Cronin, Kieran McQuinn.



Reports and Other Publications

Estimating the cost of housing in the Irish market: A rental equivalence approach, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 53, No. 2, Autumn 2022, *Economic and Social Studies*, Matthew Allen-Coughlan, Cathal Coffey, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Ilias Kostarakos, Kieran Quinn, Conor O'Toole.

Quarterly Economic Commentary, Spring 2022, ESRI, Dublin, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Wendy Disch, Eva Shiel, Eoin Kenny.

Quarterly Economic Commentary, Summer 2022, ESRI, Dublin, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Wendy Disch, Eva Shiel, Eoin Kenny.

Quarterly Economic Commentary, Winter 2022, ESRI, Dublin, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Wendy Disch, Eoin Kenny, Eva Shiel.

Recent trends in SME investment in Ireland: exploring the pandemic and barriers to growth, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 113, ESRI, Dublin, Leona Cantillon, Eric Gargan, Janez Kren, Martina Lawless, Conor O'Toole.

Rental inflation and stabilisation policies: international evidence and the Irish experience, ESRI Research Series No. 136, Cathal Coffey, Paul J. Hogan, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker.



QEC Special Articles and Research Notes

Increasing future housing supply: What are the implications for the Irish economy?, *QEC* Special Article, ESRI, Dublin, Paul Egan, Eoin Kenny, Kieran McQuinn.



ESRI Working Papers

A revised financial satellite model for COSMO, Paul Egan, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole.

Adding a construction sector to COSMO: Structure and policy analysis, Paul Egan, Adele Bergin.

Examining the response of house prices to supply using a Markov regime switching approach: The case of the Irish housing market, Paul Egan, Kieran McQuinn.

Is Ireland the most Intangible Intensive Economy in Europe? A growth accounting perspective, Ilias Kostarakos, Kieran McQuinn, Petros Varthalitis.

SME Financial Distress and the Macroeconomic Recovery: A Microsimulation Approach, Janez Kren, Martina Lawless, Gerard McGuinness, Conor O'Toole.

The housing net worth channel and the public finances: Evidence from a European country panel, David Cronin, Kieran McQuinn.



A macroeconomic model of Northern Ireland is being developed in collaboration with the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR) in London.



Migration, Integration and Demography



Research Area Coordinators:

Frances McGinnity and Emma Quinn

Researchers working in this area in 2022:

Emily Cunliffe, Sarah Curristan, Merike Darmody, Elish Kelly, James Laurence, Evie McCullough, Gretta Mohan, Keire Murphy, Michał Polakowski, Helen Russell, Anne Sheridan, Amy Stapleton, Stefanie Sprong, Kayla Rush, Aislin Lavin

Research in the area of Migration, Integration and Demography focuses on the integration of migrants as well as migration trends and policy. In 2022 the main themes were the integration of migrant women, housing and family among migrants, migrants' wages and working conditions, the integration of migrant children, trends in international protection applications, trafficking and undocumented migration.

The ESRI is Ireland's National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Migration Network (EMN), funded by the **European Commission** and the **Department of Justice**. In April, in a report on the detection, identification and protection of victims of human trafficking, EMN Ireland authors highlighted current policy challenges, including the role of An Garda Síochána as the sole authority for identification, and inappropriate housing for victims of human trafficking.

In May, a study on responses to undocumented migrants in Ireland was published. It found that the 2022 regularisation scheme could significantly reduce the size of the group, but that policy challenges remain for those who do not

regularise, such as ensuring public service firewall provisions, guaranteeing that a person's undocumented migration status will not be shared.

A second strand of research in the area largely falls under the research programme on Integration and Equality, funded by the **Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth**.

In April, a report under this programme considered housing and family among migrants in Ireland. Using Census 2016 microdata, the report found that migrants are concentrated in the private rented sector and many migrant groups have a much higher risk of overcrowding and homelessness than Irish-born people.

In November, a study was published that examined factors contributing to the significant increase in international protection applications in the first half of 2022. The report found that post-COVID-19 catch-up migration, conditions and conflict in countries of origin and the movement of refugees from other EU Member States were all likely to have had an effect.

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Migrants are concentrated in the private rented sector and many migrant groups have a much higher risk of overcrowding and homelessness than Irish-born.



Using the '08 Cohort of the **Growing Up in Ireland** study, researchers found considerable progress in English language skills among children of migrant parents between ages three and nine, though children with two migrant parents still had lower mean reading scores at age nine compared to children with at least one Irish parent.

Work continued in the Integration programme on a project investigating the wages and working conditions of non-Irish nationals, using labour force survey data matched to revenue data. The report was published in January 2023. Researchers also commenced

a project comparing migrant integration in Ireland and Northern Ireland for the **Department of the Taoiseach**. A scoping paper was published in May 2022 outlining research themes, and researchers held an online consultation event in October with migrant representative organisations, North and South, to investigate migrants' experience of the border in Ireland.

Ongoing research on the integration of migrant children and adults was presented at conferences and the London School of Economics.



Journal Articles

Academic achievement of immigrant children in Irish primary schools: the role of capitals and school context, *Eesti Haridusteaduste Ajakiri*, Vol. 10(2), 2022, pp. 129–151, Eesti Haridusteaduste Ajakiri, Fran McGinnity, Aisling Murray, Merike Darmody.

Austerity, Short-term Economic Recovery and Public Perception of Immigration in Ireland, *Society*, Vol. 59, 2022, pp. 349–358, Springer, Mathew Creighton, Egle Gusciute, Frances McGinnity.

Immigration, diversity and trust: the competing and intersecting role of English language ability in the community, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. 45, Issue 16, 2022, Taylor & Francis, Kitty Lymperopoulou, Arkadiusz Wiśniowski, James Laurence.



Reports and Other Publications

Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2020: Ireland, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 114, ESRI, Dublin, Anne Sheridan, Emily Cunliffe, Evie McCullough.

Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2021, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 116, ESRI, Dublin, Keire Murphy, Anne Sheridan.

Detection, identification, and protection of victims of human trafficking in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 139, ESRI, Dublin, Emily Cunliffe, Oluwatoyosi Ayodele.

Explaining recent trends in international protection applications in Ireland, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 115, ESRI, Dublin, Emily Cunliffe, Keire Murphy, Emma Quinn, James Laurence, Kayla Rush, Fran McGinnity.

Responses to irregularly staying migrants in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 140, ESRI, Dublin, Michał Polakowski, Emma Quinn.

The integration of non-EU migrant women in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 148, ESRI, Dublin, Amy Stapleton, Michał Polakowski, Emma Quinn.



Researchers found considerable progress in English language skills among children of migrant parents between ages 3 and 9.





Social Inclusion and Equality



Research Area Coordinators:

Bertrand Maitre and Frances McGinnity

Researchers working in this area in 2022:

Adele Bergin, Eamonn Carroll, Sarah Curristan, Anne Devlin, Karina Doorley, Theano Kakoulidou, Elish Kelly, James Laurence, Selina McCoy, Seamus McGuinness, Seamus O'Malley, Barra Roantree, Helen Russell, Emer Smyth, Stefanie Sprong, Adele Whelan, Keyu Ye

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. In 2022, researchers investigated a diverse range of topics, including poverty and social exclusion, disability supports, (in)equality in children's achievement and their wellbeing, early childhood care and education, equality in public sector recruitment, and gender balance in the financial sector.

In November, research funded by the **National Disability Authority** examined the lived experience of disabled people of personal assistance (PA) services in Ireland. Results showed that disabled people wanted a broader range of supports, with some effectively confined to their homes due to a lack of PA hours. There were calls for greater control over when and for what their HSE-funded hours could be used.

A report on 'The changing social worlds of 9-year-olds', funded as part of a research programme with the **Department of Equality, Children, Disability, Integration and Youth**, found that the family life and day-to-day activities of children continue to be strongly influenced by the socio-economic situation of their families, with evidence of growing inequalities in sports participation and reading for pleasure.

A report funded by **Pobal**, published in October, examined how poverty persists from one generation to the next in Ireland and other EU countries. It found that, in Ireland, the likelihood of deprivation in adulthood was 35 percentage points higher among individuals who grew up in poverty when compared to individuals who grew up in 'very good' financial circumstances.

In October, a report from a research programme funded by the **Community Foundation for Ireland** found that, while income growth has been strong and inclusive, leaving measures of income inequality at

their lowest recorded level, rapidly rising private rents have led to a substantial decline in the affordability of housing for young and low-income renters.

Work began in spring 2022 comparing Early Childhood Education and Care in Ireland and Northern Ireland, funded by the **Department of the Taoiseach**, and a scoping paper summarising this and other programme topics was published in May 2022. The full report was published in January 2023.

ESRI researchers appeared in September 2022 before an Oireachtas Committee on key Issues on Gender Equality, in a session discussing the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality regarding Pay and Workplace Conditions and Leadership in Politics, Public Life & the Workplace.

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Research showed
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lack of personal
assistance hours.



A scoping project funded by the **Public Appointments Service** (PAS) analysed PAS data from 2019-2021 to investigate equality and diversity in public sector recruitment, with a view to developing an equality monitoring dashboard.

Ireland's **Women in Finance Charter** is an initiative to promote greater gender equality in the financial sector. As data partner, the ESRI is analysing data collected from Charter

signatory firms on gender composition and progress towards gender balance targets. The project is funded by the **Banking & Payments Federation Ireland, Ibec, Insurance Ireland, and Irish Funds.**

In December 2022 a new programme of research on Equality and Human Rights commenced in collaboration with the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.**



Journal Articles

Housing supplements and deprivation in Ireland, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 53 No. 3, Autumn 2022, Economic and Social Studies, Ivan Privalko, Bertrand Maître.

Immigration, Identity, and Anonymity: Intentionally Masked Intolerance in Ireland, *International Migration Review*, 2022, Sage, Mathew J. Creighton, Éamonn Fahey, Frances McGinnity.

Personal Assistance Services in Ireland: A Capability Approach to Understanding

the Lived Experience of Disabled People, *Disabilities*, Vol. 2(4), 2022, pp. 694-714, MDPI, Eamonn Carroll, Selina McCoy.

Understanding differences in children's reading ability by social origin and gender: The role of parental reading and pre- and primary school exposure in Ireland, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, Vol. 81, October 2022, 100729, Elsevier, Frances McGinnity, Patricia McMullin, Aisling Murray, Helen Russell, Emer Smyth.



Reports and Other Publications

Children of migrants in Ireland: How are they faring?, ESRI Research Series No. 134, ESRI, Dublin, Helen Russell, Fran McGinnity, Merike Darmody.

Energy poverty and deprivation in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 144, ESRI, Dublin, Michelle Barrett, Niall Farrell, Barra Roantree.

Headline poverty target reduction in Ireland and the role of work and social welfare, ESRI and Department of Social Protection, Dublin, Karina Doorley, Theano Kakoulidou, Seamus O'Malley, Helen Russell, Bertrand Maître.

Intergenerational poverty in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 150, ESRI, Dublin, Bertrand Maître, Sarah Curristan, Helen Russell.

Origin and Integration: Housing and family among migrants in the 2016 Irish Census, ESRI and Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Dublin, Frances McGinnity, Ivan Privalko, Helen Russell, Sarah Curristan, Amy Stapleton, James Laurence.

Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland: 2nd annual report, Jointly published Report No. 1, ESRI and The Community Foundation for Ireland, Dublin, Barra Roantree, Michelle Barrett, Paul Redmond.



ESRI Research Bulletins

Social class and gender inequalities in reading ability among nine-year-olds in Ireland, Frances McGinnity, Patricia McMullin, Aisling Murray, Helen Russell, Emer Smyth.



ESRI Working Papers

How important are the unit of analysis and equivalence scales when measuring income poverty and inequality? Evidence from Ireland, Mark Regan, Theano Kakoulidou.

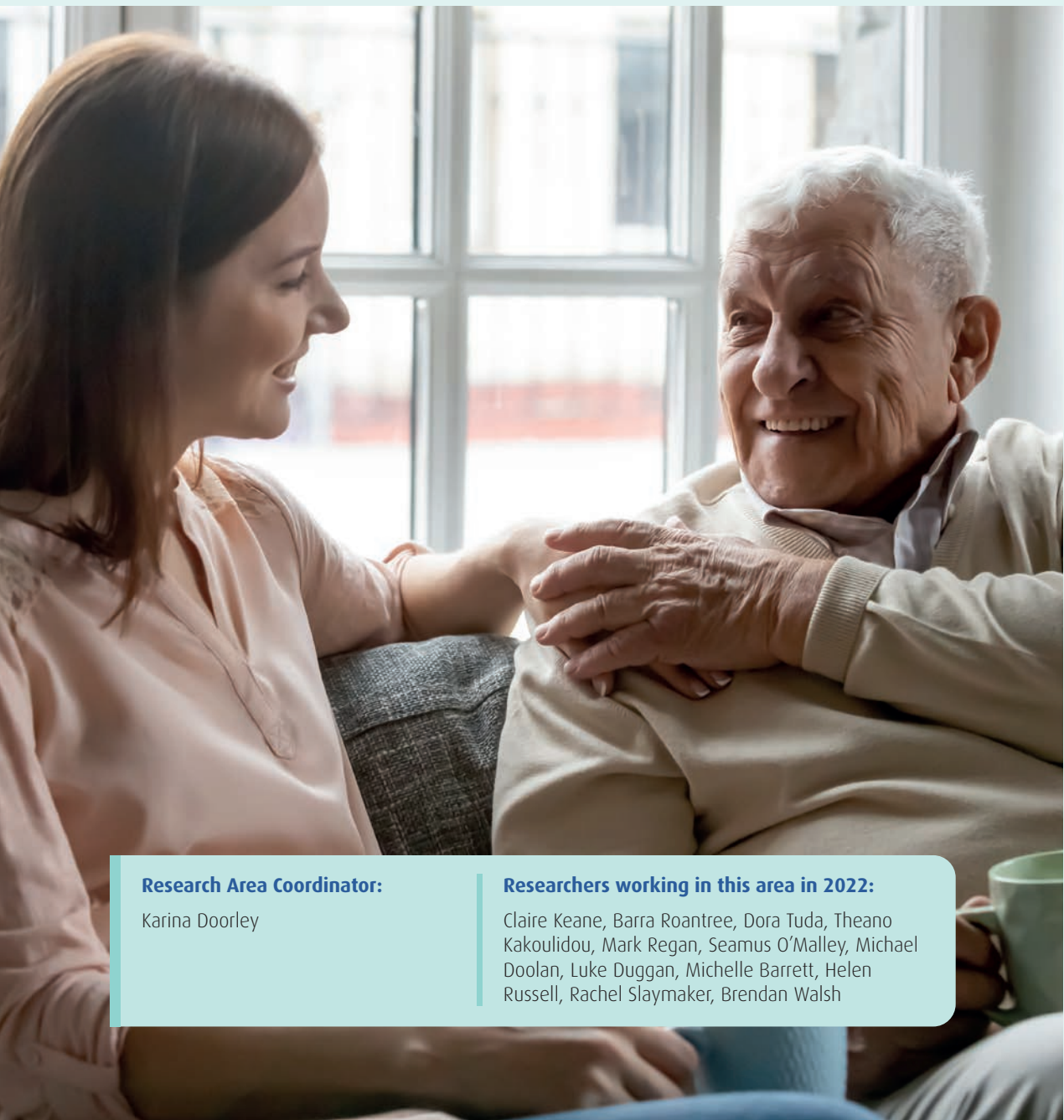
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Rapidly rising private rents have led to a substantial decline in the affordability of housing for young and low-income renters.





Tax, Welfare and Pensions



Research Area Coordinator:

Karina Doorley

Researchers working in this area in 2022:

Claire Keane, Barra Roantree, Dora Tuda, Theano Kakoulidou, Mark Regan, Seamus O'Malley, Michael Doolan, Luke Duggan, Michelle Barrett, Helen Russell, Rachel Slaymaker, Brendan Walsh

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 concentrated around the themes of the cost-of-living crisis and its effect on households; energy poverty, housing supports and the potential for the tax and welfare system to tackle consistent poverty. Each of the outputs mentioned below is part of the tax, welfare and pensions work programme, 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, NDP Delivery and Reform**.

In March, the team published research on the distributional effect of inflation and the cost-of-living package. This research found that inflation – which had been growing particularly fast for food and fuel – was higher for low-income than high-income households. The cost-of-living package was found to cushion the effect of inflation on household incomes but households in the top half of the income distribution accounted for most of the cost of the reforms.

In May, we published *Low income renters and housing supports*, which examined tenure patterns and rental affordability in Ireland. This research found that housing supports significantly improved affordability for eligible households but that the targeting of these supports could be improved. The research also highlighted the chronic undersupply of affordable rental accommodation in many areas, particularly for low-income single adults.

In June, researchers presented three papers at the annual Budget Perspectives conference. In an equality budgeting exercise, *The impact of Irish budgetary policy by disability*

status estimated how changes to the tax and welfare system between 2008 and 2019 affected households, differentiated by disability status. *Occupations and Health* examined the link between occupation type and health, with a specific focus on mental health. Finally, *Earnings-related benefits in Ireland: rationale, costs and work incentives* investigated the distribution effect of moving from flat-rate to earnings-related benefits. This work was cited in draft proposals for the introduction of a new pay-related jobseeker benefit payment, published by the Minister for Social Protection.

In October, the team held their post-Budget briefing. They showed how changes announced in Budget 2023 would, on average, compensate low-income households for the effects of inflation. However, they cautioned that, once the many temporary measures expired, low-income households might find themselves worse off as permanent rates of social welfare were indexed by less than inflation.

Research in this area also examined the topic of gender inequality. A paper published in *Social Sciences* showed that there has been relatively stable structural inequality at the top of the wage and earnings distribution in Ireland over the past three decades, pointing towards a persistent glass ceiling. In a methodological contribution, the suitability of the Irish equivalence scale, used in the calculation of headline poverty and inequality indices, was also investigated.

The work of the tax, welfare and pensions team has always had an important policy focus. This was reflected in the participation of one of the team members in the Commission on Taxation and Welfare. Members of the team also made seven appearances at Oireachtas committees over the course of the year, giving evidence on topics such as indexation, Budget 2023, inflation, gender equality and enterprise supports.



Research showed that housing supports significantly improved affordability for eligible households but that the targeting of these supports could be improved.





Journal Articles

How has the gender earnings gap in Ireland changed in thirty years?, *Social Sciences*, Vol. 11, No. 8, 2022, MDPI, Michelle Barrett, Karina Doorley, Paul Redmond, Barra Roantree.

The gender gap in income and the COVID-19 pandemic in Ireland, *Social Sciences*, Vol. 11, No. 7, 2022, MDPI, Karina Doorley, Cathal O'Donoghue, Denisa Sologon.



Reports and Other Publications

Future trends in housing tenure and the adequacy of retirement income, ESRI Research Series No. 143, ESRI, Dublin, Rachel Slaymaker, Barra Roantree, Anne Nolan, Conor O'Toole.

Low income renters and housing supports, ESRI Research Series No. 141, ESRI, Dublin, Barra Roantree, Rachel Slaymaker, Michael Doolan.



QEC Special Articles and Research Notes

Distributional impact of tax and welfare policies: Budget 2023, *QEC Special Article*, ESRI, Dublin, Michael Doolan, Karina Doorley, Mark Regan, Barra Roantree.



ESRI Working Papers

SWITCH: A tax-benefit model for Ireland linked to survey and register data, Claire Keane, Karina Doorley, Theano Kakoulidou, Seamus O'Malley.



Other Papers

The impact of Irish budgetary policy by disability status, *ESRI Budget Perspectives Paper No. 2023/1*, Karina Doorley, Mark Regan.

Occupations and health, *ESRI Budget Perspectives Paper No. 2023/3*, Brendan Walsh, Karina Doorley.

Earnings-related benefits in Ireland: Rationale, costs and work incentives, *ESRI Budget Perspectives Paper No. 2023/2*, Theano Kakoulidou, Michael Doolan and Barra Roantree.



Chapters in Books and Reports

Older mothers' employment and marriage stability when the nest is empty, Molina, J.A. (eds), *Mothers in the Labor Market*, pp. 247–269, Springer, Hippolyte d'Albis, Karina Doorley, Elena Stancanelli.



External Commitments of Research Staff

ALAN BARRETT

- Research Fellow, Institute of Labour Economics (IZA), Bonn
- Honorary Fellow, Society of Actuaries in Ireland
- Member, Royal Irish Academy
- Member, Northern Ireland Fiscal Council
- Member, UK Productivity Commission
- Member, External Advisory Board, Parliamentary Budget Office

ADELE BERGIN

- Council Member, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council
- Policy Section Editor, *Economic and Social Review*
- Council Member, Economic and Social Studies Council
- Research Fellow, Institute of Labour Economics (IZA), Bonn
- Member, Advisory Board, Department of Economics, Maynooth University
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KARINA DOORLEY

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- Stakeholder Advisory Group, International Agency for Research on Cancer/WHO/Department of Health/HSE National Screening Service collaboration to support the delivery of an exemplar Cervical Cancer Screening Programme
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- Member, Cultures, Academic Values and Education (CAVE) Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin
- Member, Editorial Board, Studies in Educational Evaluation

- Member, Editorial Board, Irish Educational Studies
- Member, Editorial Board, Ireland's Education Yearbook 2022

FRANCES MCGINNITY

- Visiting Senior Fellow, Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE), London School of Economics
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- Member, Expert Panel, National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland
- Member, Equality Budgeting Expert Advisory Group, Subgroup Equality Data, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

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- Board member, Irish Economics Association

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- Steering Group Member, ESRI/Department of Finance Research Programme
- Steering Group Member, ESRI/Pensions Council Research Programme
- Member, European Network for Housing Research
- Member, Rental Regulation and Quality Working Group, Housing Commission
- Member, Steering Group, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Research Programme

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- Member, National Steering Group, European Social Survey
- Member, Technical Advisory Group on Social Inclusion, Department of Social Protection
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- Member, Advisory Group, Coalition for Tech Apprenticeship Access and Inclusion
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- International Cohorts Advisory Group for the UK Early Life Cohort Feasibility Study
- Questionnaire Advisory Group, Growing Up in Scotland study

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- Expert for Ireland, OECD Project on AI Diffusion
- Expert on Economic Policy in Ireland, Economic Experts Survey, ifo Centre for Public Finance and Political Economy Munich and Institute for Swiss Economic Policy
- Academic Expert, EU-US Trade and Technology Council Stakeholder Assembly
- Member, Working Group on Strategic Autonomy and the Resilience of Value Chains, Forum on the Future of European Industry, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels
- Member, Working Group on Strategic Autonomy in Defence, Forum on the Future of European Industry, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels
- Member, ESRI Representative, Productivity Liaison Group, Central Statistics Office Ireland
- Member, Irish Economic Association – Central Statistics Office Data Access Working Group
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Charles O'Regan (Head of Finance)
Fiona O'Sullivan
Fiona Owens
Fionnuala Quinn
Stephen Sammon
Jeanne Sutton
LeAnnie Wilson



Whitaker Patrons and Corporate Members

ESRI WHITAKER PATRONS

Davy
EirGrid
ESB
Google
ICON
Intel
Kingspan
Meta
Microsoft

ESRI CORPORATE MEMBERS

ABP Food Group
AIB
Becton Dickinson
Bord Bia
Bord Gáis
DCC
Deloitte
Competition and Consumer Protection
Commission
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Department of Defence
Department of Foreign Affairs
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science
Department of Transport
Dublin Bus
Enterprise Ireland
Fáilte Ireland
FBD Insurance
Greencoat Capital
Higher Education Authority
Ibec
IDA
Irish Farmers Association
Irish Life
Irish Rail
Irish Water
KPMG
Louth County Council
Malin
Matheson
Musgrave Group
National Transport Authority
National Treasury Management Agency
Norbrook
OHM Group
Portwest
PwC
SIPTU
Tesco





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