

Report on the Post-COVID-19 Labour Market Trends

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN** **IRELAND**

Timeline

2022 Completed**ID number 45206**

Background

The Skills and Labour Market Research Unit (SLMRU) in SOLAS is a central data gathering, analytical and research resource to monitor the supply and demand of skills in Ireland's labour market. Its annual National Skills Bulletin summarised labour market trends and identifies skills shortages and difficult-to-fill vacancies. This informs education and training providers to make informed decisions on their programmes and school leavers and job-seekers to make their career decisions.

SOLAS is the Further Education and Training (FET) Authority in Ireland.

Objectives

Based on the online job advertisements analysis, the report was to capture the jobs and skills most in demand by employers and to identify career pathways, particularly for those whose employment has been impacted by COVID-19.

Description

The research report analyses the state of the Irish labour market through job advertisements, particularly looking at job displacements resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, such as digitalisation. Using a skills adjacency model, the report highlights reskilling and upskilling opportunities to help displaced workers get back to employment. It focuses on possibility (skill overlap between occupations), feasibility (similar education requirements and stable or growing demand), and desirability (better salary). The report also examines trends in employer-offered benefits, such as remote work or willingness to train new employees, to measure labour market tightness.

Some of the findings suggest that some occupations, especially those that involved shut down during the pandemic places or those at risk of automation, suffered a large decrease in demand and have not recovered. Some sectors experience shifts in skill demands, with Manufacturing and production occupations becoming more technical while occupations in Finance more focused on soft skills.

2022 Completed

Bodies responsible

- Further Education and Training Authority (SOLAS)
- Skills and Labour Market Research Unit (SLMRU)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Adult learners
Unemployed and jobseekers
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment
Low-skilled/qualified persons

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Shifting Sands: Navigating the Patterns Emerging in the Irish Labour Market Post-COVID-19](#)

[Skills and Labour Market Research Unit \(SLMRU\)](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Report on the Post-COVID-19 Labour Market Trends: Ireland. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/45206>