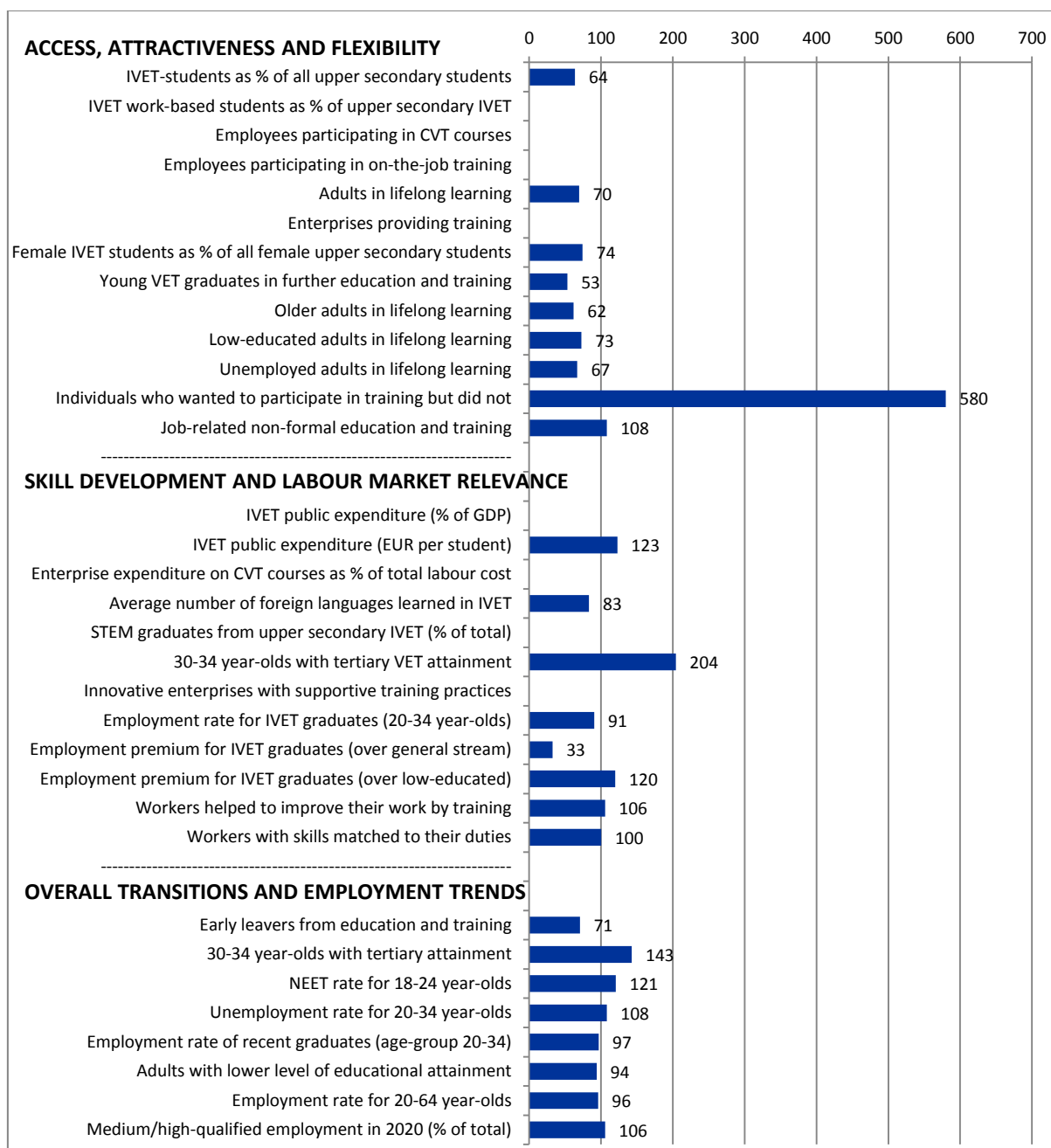


7. Ireland

VET indicators for Ireland for the most recent year available Index numbers (EU=100)



NB: The index numbers are derived from data summarised in the table but which have not been rounded.
All data in the table have been rounded.

Ireland's performance on a range of indicators selected to monitor progress in VET and lifelong learning across the European Union (EU) is summarised below. The chart compares the situation in Ireland with that of the EU, based on the most recent data available (this differs by indicator). Data in the chart are presented as an index where the EU average equals 100. If the index for a selected indicator for Ireland is 100, then its performance equals the EU average. If the index is 90, its performance is 90% of (or 10% below) the EU average. If the index is 200, Ireland's performance is twice (or 200%) the EU average. For some indicators, such as early leavers from education and training, a country is performing better if its score is below that of the EU average.

Data on which the index is calculated are presented in the table, which also shows changes over time. A technical definition of each indicator is provided in the annex, which also includes the years used to calculate each indicator.

Key points

Access, attractiveness and flexibility

Ireland reports relatively low levels of participation in both IVET and adult learning compared to the EU. The data for 2012 shows the share of upper secondary students enrolled in vocational programmes as lower in Ireland (32.2%) than the EU average (50.4%).

The percentage of adults participating in lifelong learning in 2013 in Ireland (7.3%) is lower than the EU average (10.5%) and below the average target (15%) set by the strategic framework education and training 2020. Participation rates in lifelong learning for older adults, adults with low-level qualifications, and unemployed adults are also lower than in the EU. The percentage of young VET graduates who undertake further education and training (16.3%) is also markedly lower than the EU average (30.7% in 2009).

Skill development and labour market relevance

The share of 30 to 34 year-olds who have completed a tertiary level of VET (ISCED 5b) is higher (17.7%) than the EU average (8.7% in 2013), showing that VET plays an important role in determining the high level of tertiary attainment for 30 to 34 year-olds.

Based on 2009 data, the employment rate of IVET graduates (aged 20-34) at ISCED 3-4 (71.6%) is lower than the EU average (79.1%). IVET graduates in Ireland enjoy a positive premium on their employment rate compared to graduates from general education at the same ISCED level, as well as to graduates at a lower ISCED level. The employment rate of IVET graduates is 1.8 percentage points higher than that for their counterparts from general education (a positive employment premium, even though it is lower than the EU average premium of 5.6 percentage points); the employment rate of IVET graduates is also 20.9 percentage points higher than that for those with lower-level qualifications (this premium is both positive and above the EU average of 17.4

percentage points). All employment figures relate to 2009 and exclude young people in further education.

Overall transitions and employment trends

In this section all data refer to 2013 unless otherwise stated.

In Ireland, the NEET rate for 18 to 24 year-olds and the unemployment rate for 20 to 34 year-olds are higher (20.5% and 16.3%, respectively) than EU averages (17.0% and 15.1%). The employment rate for the 20 to 64 year-olds is 65.5% in Ireland and 68.3% across the EU. All unemployment- and employment-related indicators show a clear improvement since 2010 while the opposite tends to be true for the EU as a whole.

The share of 30 to 34 year-olds with tertiary-level education is higher than the EU average (52.6% versus 36.8%) and the share of early leavers from education and training is lower (8.4% versus 11.9%).

Score on VET indicators in Ireland and in the EU, 2006, 2010 and 2011/12/13 updates (where available)

Indicator label	2006		2010		Last available year			Change 2010-last available year	
	IE	EU	IE	EU	IE	EU		IE	EU
Access, attractiveness and flexibility									
IVET-students as % of all upper secondary students	33.4	51.9	37.5	50.1	32.2	50.4	(2)	-5.3	0.3
IVET work-based students as % of upper secondary IVET	7.3	27.2	13.4	27.4		26.5	(2)		-0.9
Employees participating in CVT courses (%)	49	33		38					
Employees participating in on-the-job training (%)		16		20					
Adults in lifelong learning (%)	7.3		6.8		7.3	10.5 ^(b)	(3)	0.5	
Enterprises providing training (%)	67	60		66					
Female IVET students as % of all female upper secondary students	35.2	46.5	39.0	44.4	33.5	45.0	(2)	-5.5	0.6
Young VET graduates in further education and training (%)			16.3	30.7					
Older adults in lifelong learning (%)			3.9 ^(b)		4.1	6.6 ^(b)	(3)	0.2	
Low-educated adults in lifelong learning (%)	2.7		2.7		3.2	4.4 ^(b)	(3)	0.5	
Unemployed adults in lifelong learning (%)	6.9		7.1		6.7	10.0 ^(b)	(3)	-0.4	
Individuals who wanted to participate in training but did not (%)		14.2	55.1	9.5					
Job-related non-formal education and training (%)			86.6	80.2					
Skill development and labour market relevance									
IVET public expenditure (% of GDP)	0.35	0.67		0.71		0.68	(1)		-0.03
IVET public expenditure (EUR per student)	5 331	7 033	10 910	8 558	10 543	8 586	(1)	-367	28
Enterprise expenditure on CVT courses as % of total labour cost	1.5	0.9		0.8					
Average number of foreign languages learned in IVET	0.9		1.0	1.2 ^(d)	1.0	1.2	(2)	0.0	0.0
STEM graduates from upper secondary IVET (% of total)		32.0		28.7		29.2	(2)		0.5
30-34 year-olds with tertiary VET attainment (%)		7.3	20.0 ^(b)	7.4	17.7	8.7	(3)	-2.3	1.3
Innovative enterprises with supportive training practices (%)		43.1		41.6					
Employment rate for IVET graduates (20-34 year-olds)			71.6	79.1					
Employment premium for IVET graduates (over general stream)			1.8	5.6					
Employment premium for IVET graduates (over low-educated)			20.9	17.4					
Workers helped to improve their work by training (%)			94.9	89.8					
Workers with skills matched to their duties (%)			55.3	55.2					
Overall transitions and labour market trends									
Early leavers from education and training (%)	12.1	15.4	11.5	13.9	8.4	11.9	(3)	-3.1	-2.0
30-34 year-olds with tertiary attainment (%)	41.3	28.8	50.1	33.4	52.6	36.8	(3)	2.5	3.4
NEET rate for 18-24 year-olds (%)	11.8	15.1	24.1	16.6	20.5	17.0	(3)	-3.6	0.4
Unemployment rate for 20-34 year-olds (%)		10.6	17.5 ^(b)	13.1	16.3	15.1	(3)	-1.2	2.0
Employment rate of recent graduates (age group 20-34) (%)	88.5	79.0	71.0	77.4	73.0	75.4	(3)	2.0	-2.0
Adults with lower level of educational attainment (%)	33.4	30.0	27.2	27.3	23.3	24.8	(3)	-3.9	-2.5
Employment rate for 20-64 year-olds (%)		68.9	64.6 ^(b)	68.5	65.5	68.3	(3)	0.9	-0.2
Medium/high-qualified employment in 2020 (% of total)					86.9	82.3			

NB: b = break in series. When break in series occurs data cannot be compared. Consequently, when break in series occurs from 2011 onwards, data in the column 'Last available year' are not comparable with previous years. Also, when the break is before 2011 (i.e. any year between 2006 and 2010 included), the 2006 figure is not shown; d = change in definition. Data are treated in a similar way to breaks in series. When the change in definition is in 2006 or 2010, these data are also not presented because comparability over time is affected; u = unreliable; p = provisional; (1) = year of reference: 2011; (2) = year of reference: 2012; (3) = year of reference: 2013. A few indicators use other years to approximate the 2006 and 2010 baselines (see annex).