

Ireland

Skills development, labour and skills shortages

[More about skills in Ireland](#)

BASIC SKILLS

Many people do not have sufficient basic skills, such as literacy, numeracy and digital skills

Average student underachievement rate
15 year-olds; reading, maths, and science

15%



27%



Source: OECD PISA

% of low-performing adults
literacy and numeracy

16%



20%



Source: OECD PIAAC

% of adults with at least basic digital skills
16-74 year-olds

73%



56%



Source: Eurostat Basic digital skills

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Not enough people are gaining the skills they need for the jobs of today and tomorrow

Participation rate
in adult learning



48%



40%

EU TARGET
60%

Source: Eurostat Adult education survey

Employment rate of vocational
education and training graduates



82%



81%

Source: Eurostat Labour force survey

Work-based learning in voca-
tional education and training



39%



64%

Source: Eurostat Labour force survey

Share of young people
with higher education



63%



43%

Source: Eurostat Labour force survey

Share of students enrolled in STEM*
fields in initial medium-level VET



37%

Source: UOE data collection

Share of students enrolled in STEM
fields at tertiary level



28%

(*) science, technology, engineering and mathematics



477.5 MILLION

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND+ AND RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY*
2021-27 estimated investment in skills

(*) ex ante cost estimates

LABOUR & SKILLS SHORTAGES

Businesses are struggling to find workers with the right skills to grow and innovate

Companies reporting
shortages of skilled workers
as an investment barrier

81%



77%



Source: EIB Investment Survey

SMEs reporting difficulties
to find employees with the
right skills

50%



54%



Source: Eurobarometer SMEs
and skills shortages

Top-3

In-demand
occupations

Legal & social
associate professionals

Metal & machinery
workers

Machine & plant
operators

Source: Cedefop skillsOVATE/
ELA-EURES

Top-3

Growing
occupations

Administrative &
commercial managers

Health associate
professionals

Building & related
trades workers
(excluding electricians)

Source: Cedefop skills forecast