

Key Labour Market Indicators¹ Q2 2025	South East	State
Population (0+ years)	486,200	5,458,200
Population by education level (25-64 years)		
FET (NFQ 4-6)	18%	13%
Third level	49%	57%
Working age population (15-64 years)	314,300	3,597,400
Labour force participation rate (15 years +)	63.1%	66.4%
Males	68.9%	71.6%
Females	57.5%	61.3%
Employment (15 years +)	239,000	2,818,100
% Total national employment	8%	100%
Employment growth (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	4.9%	2.3%
Males	7.6%	3.0%
Females	2.0%	1.5%
Employment change (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	11,200	63,900
Males	9,000	43,700
Females	2,200	20,200
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.8%
Share of workforce working from home (sometimes or usually)	27.6%	35.9%

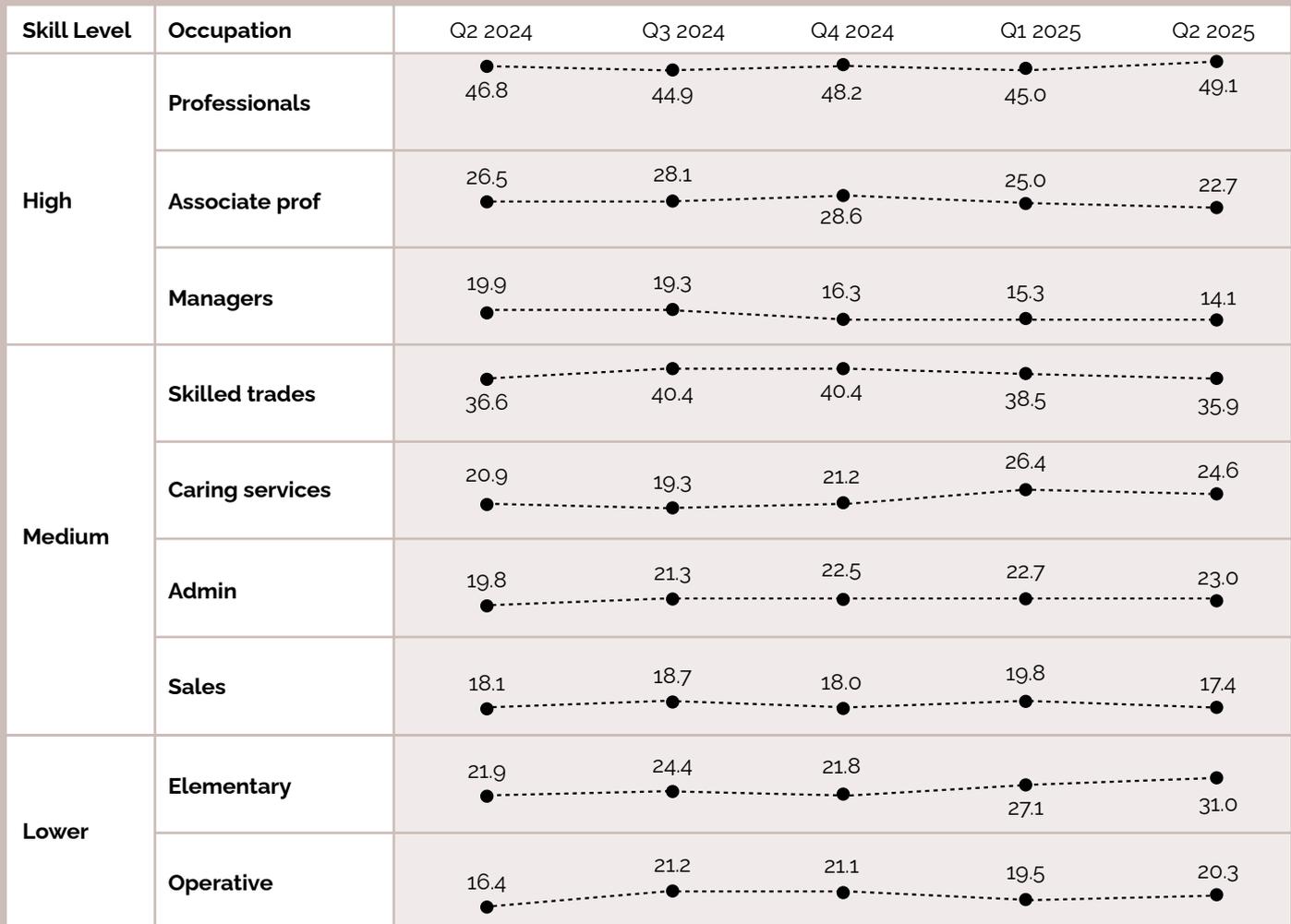
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

¹ The LFS data presented in this report is either extracted from the CSO's PxStat Open Data Statistical Database or is based on an analysis of strictly controlled Research Microdata Files provided by the CSO. The CSO does not take any responsibility for the views expressed or the outputs generated from this research.

Employment by occupation in the South East Region

36% of employment in the region was in high skilled occupations in Q2 2025, down from 41% one year earlier.

Figure 1. Employment (000s) by occupation and skill level (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)



Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data; excludes not stated

Table 1 Employment change by occupation (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)

Occupation skill level	Occupation	South East		State
		Change	% Change	% Change
High	Managers	-5,800	-29%	4%
	Professionals	2,300	5%	5%
	Assoc. prof	-3,800	-14%	-2%
	Total	-7,300	-8%	3%
Medium	Admin	3,200	16%	2%
	Caring services	3,700	18%	3%
	Skilled trades	-700	-2%	4%
	Sales	-700	-4%	1%
	Total	5,500	6%	3%
Lower	Operative	3,900	24%	1%
	Elementary	9,100	42%	1%
	Total	13,000	34%	1%

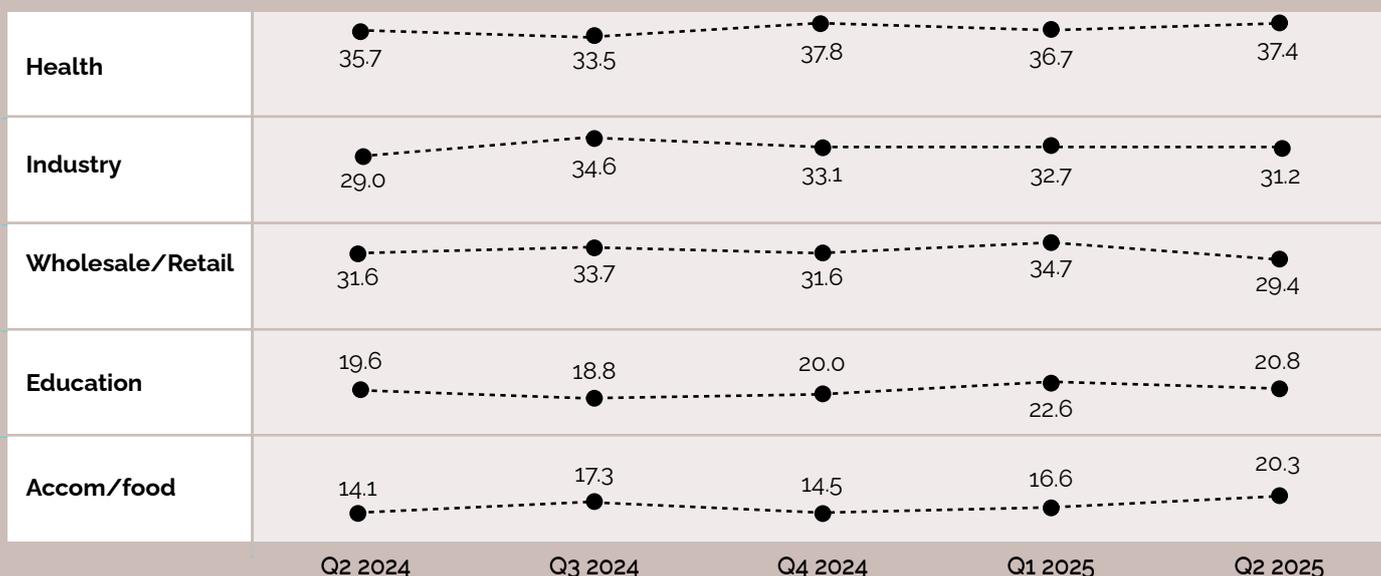
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data; excludes not stated

- At 36%, the share of regional employment in **high skilled** occupations was well below the national average (46%).
- Persons employed in **medium skilled** occupations in the South East made up 42% of total regional employment (representing 100,900 workers) in Q2 2025, considerably higher than the 37% observed nationally.
- Employment in **skilled trades occupations** fell slightly (-700 workers) in the year to Q2 2025, although there was little change in the number of farmers (+300).
- Strong increases in the number of persons employed in **lower skilled** occupations between Q2 2024 and Q2 2025 translated into an increase in employment share from 19% to 21%.

Sectoral Employment in the South East Region

58% of employment in the South East in Q2 2025 was in the top five sectors – up slightly from 57% one year earlier.

Figure 2. Top 5 sectors of employment (000s), Q2 2024-Q2 2025



Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

Table 2. Employment change by sector: top 5 sectors (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)

Top 5 Sectors	South East		State	
	Change	%	Change	%
Health	1,700	5%	1,700	4%
Industry	2,200	8%	2,200	2%
Wholesale & retail	-2,200	-7%	-2,200	2%
Education	1,200	6%	1,200	4%
Accom & food	6,200	44%	6,200	-2%

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

Outside the Top 5 Sectors

The largest absolute increases were for

- ▲ Agriculture (3,100)
- ▲ Other NACE* (2,000)
- ▲ Public admin/defence (1,900)

The largest absolute falls were for

- ▼ Prof. services (-2,700)
- ▼ Construction (-2,200)
- ▼ ICT (-2,000)

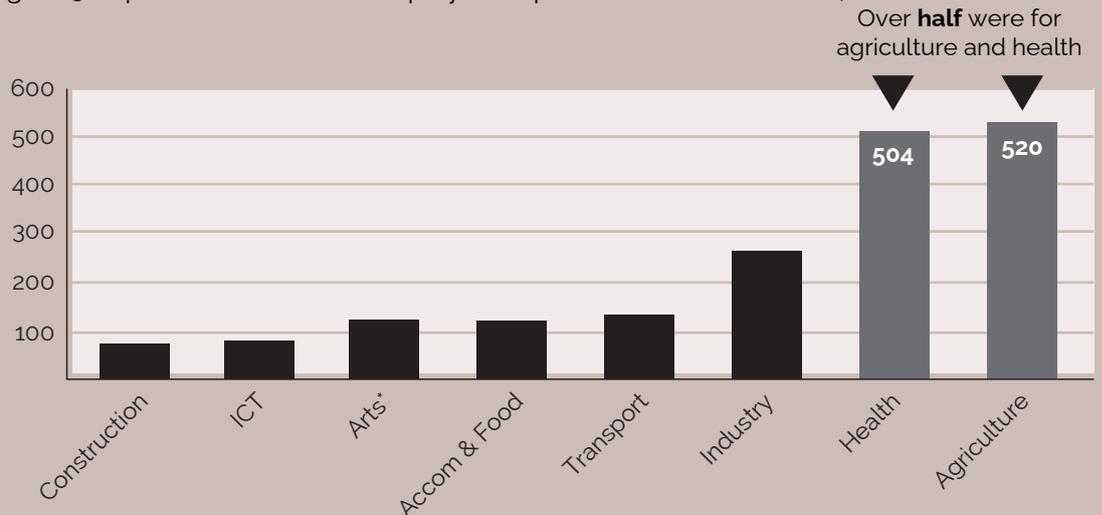
*Other NACE comprises arts & entertainment, personal services (e.g. hairdressing) etc.

Employment Permits in the South East Region

1,936

new employment permits were issued (South East) in 2024, making up 6% of the total.

Figure 3. Top 8 sectors for new employment permits, South East (2024)



*Arts comprises, arts, entertainment and recreation and other services

The top 5 occupations* accounted for 49% of new permits (South East 2024)



358
Process operatives



203
Nurses



169
Doctors



120
Chefs



108
Elementary agricultural occupations

Source: DETE

*Other job titles included HGV drivers, healthcare assistants, welders, steel fixers/fabricators, and work riders.

Companies with recent job announcements in the region

Numbers of jobs announced	
IBM	75
Dovida	40
Equifax	100



IDA job creation pipeline in the South East Region

1,267

jobs announced in 2024*, making up 9% of the total; most related to the ICT and to a lesser extent manufacturing sectors.

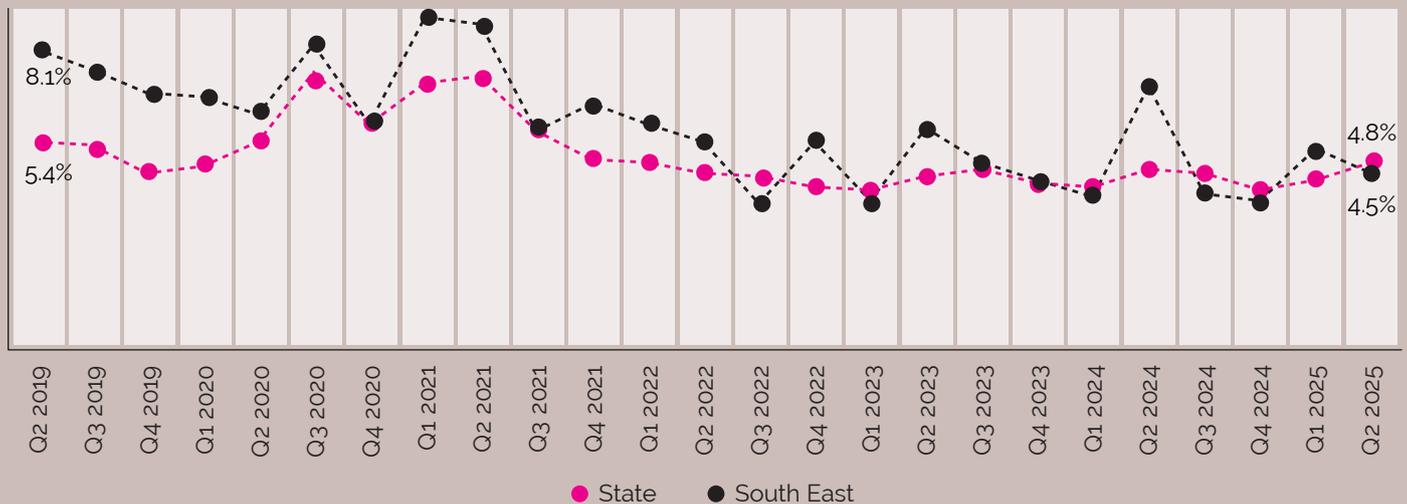
Table 3. IDA jobs announced in the South East region, 2024

Occupation	Jobs announced
Professionals, of which	1,074
IT professionals	811
Business (mgt consultants, analysts)	144
R&D professionals	85
Engineers (e.g. process)	34
Associate professionals, of which	127
IT technicians	66
Science & engineering technicians (e.g. production, lab)	38
Business associate prof. (e.g. sales, HR, operations)	23
Admin & secretarial (mostly financial)	27
Managers	20
Other (sales & elementary, e.g. packing)	19
Total	1,267

Source: IDA
*Jobs committed by IDA client companies over the next 3-5 years

Unemployment* in the South East Region

Figure 4. Unemployment rate (%) – Q2 2019-Q2 2025



Numbers unemployed Q2 2025



11,200

Change from Q2 2024



-5,800
unemployed persons

UE rate Q2 2025

4.5%

Change in UE rate from Q2 2024



-2.5 percentage points

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data
*Refers to persons aged 15-74 years

Live Register - South East Region, October 2025

Of the 16,709 persons on the Live Register in the South East region in October 2025,



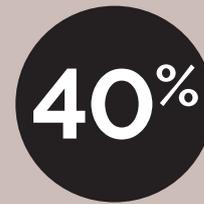
had been on the register for a year or longer



were aged 25-44 years

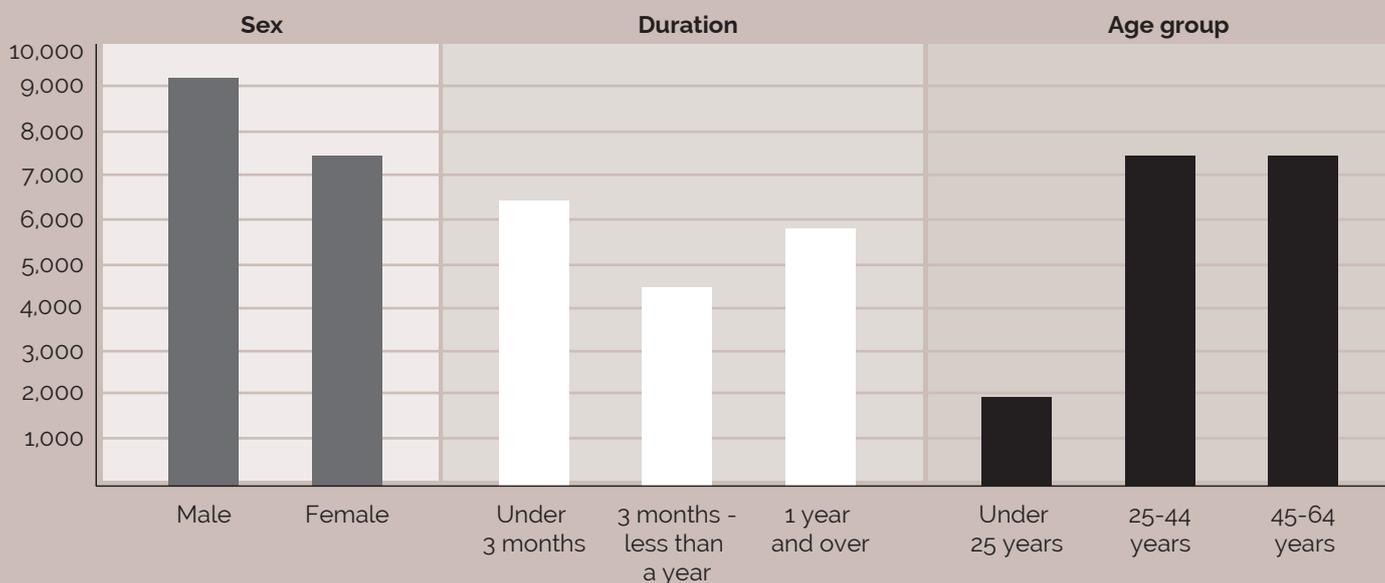


at 9,275 males outnumbered females



were in Co. Wexford; 32% were in Co. Waterford

Figure 5. Number of persons on Live Register (Oct 2025), South East region



Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (Live Register) data

Overall Comments: South East Region

- Over the period Q2 2024-Q2 2025, **the South East** had the **largest absolute increase** in **accommodation/food sector employment** (+6,200 workers).
- This was the only region where **construction sector employment declined** in the year to Q2 2025, with 2,200 fewer employed compared to quarter 2 2024.
- While nationally, employment growth in the year to Q2 2025 was driven largely by increases in high skilled occupations, in the South East, employment **growth was driven mainly by lower skilled occupations** (+34%).
- The South East region was one of only two regions (the other being the West region) to witness **a fall in the number of unemployed persons** between Q2 2024 and Q2 2025.