

Key Labour Market Indicators¹ Q2 2025	Midlands	State
Population (0+ years)	332,400	5,458,200
Population by education level (25-64 years)		
FET (NFQ 4-6)	14%	13%
Third level	45%	57%
Working age population (15-64 years)	218,800	3,597,400
Labour force participation rate (15 years +)	62.7%	66.4%
Males	67.9%	71.6%
Females	57.7%	61.3%
Employment (15 years +)	158,300	2,818,100
% Total national employment	6%	100%
Employment growth (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	-1.1%	2.3%
Males	-3.0%	3.0%
Females	1.1%	1.5%
Employment change (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	-1,700	63,900
Males	-2,600	43,700
Females	800	20,200
Unemployment rate	6.6%	4.8%
Share of workforce working from home (sometimes or usually)	26.5%	35.9%

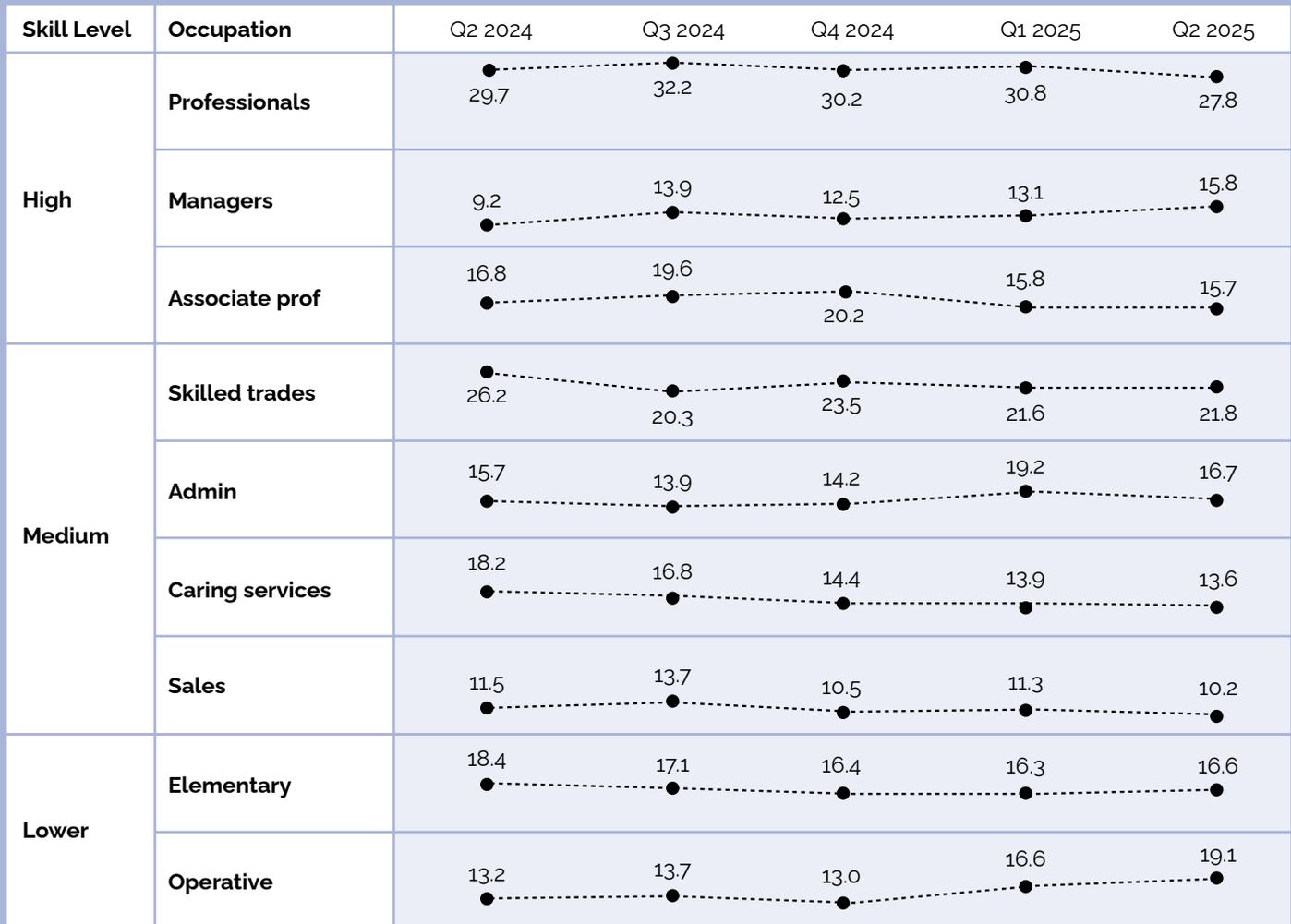
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

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 Midland Region

In Q2 2025, high and medium skilled occupations made up similar shares of total regional employment (38% and 39% respectively), in contrast to Q2 2024 (at 35% and 45% respectively).

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	Midland		State
		Change	% Change	% Change
High	Managers	6,600	72%	4%
	Professionals	-1,900	-6%	5%
	Assoc. prof	-1,100	-7%	-2%
	Total	3,600	6%	3%
Medium	Admin	1,000	6%	2%
	Caring services	-4,600	-25%	3%
	Skilled trades	-4,400	-17%	4%
	Sales	-1,300	-11%	1%
	Total	-9,300	-13%	3%
Lower	Operative	5,900	45%	1%
	Elementary	-1,800	-10%	1%
	Total	4,100	13%	1%

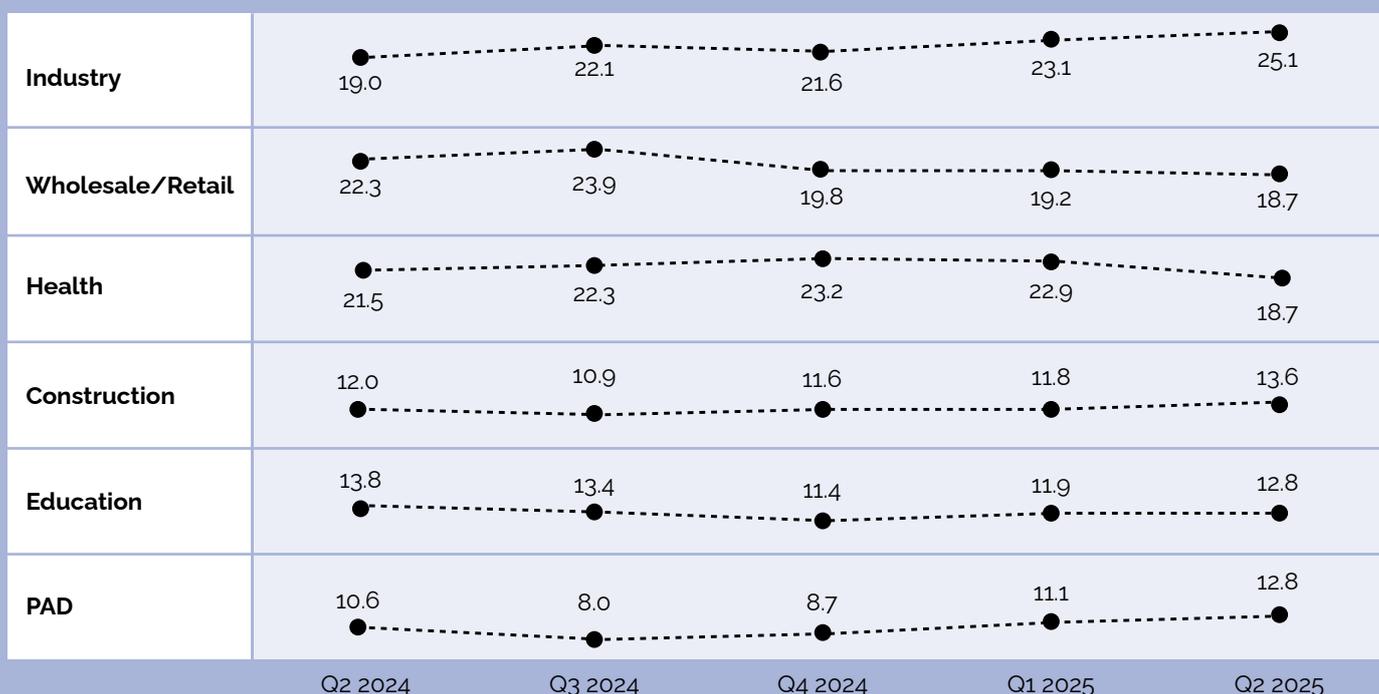
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data; excludes not stated

- The share of regional employment in **high skilled occupations** was below the national average (46%).
- The share in **medium skilled occupations** was slightly higher than the national average (37%). Of the 21,800 in **skilled trades** occupations, approximately [5,100] were farmers, although numbers are small and should be interpreted with caution.
- Persons employed in **lower skilled occupations** accounted for 23% of total employment (35,700 workers), well above the national average (16%), and the highest observed across all regions.

Sectoral Employment in the Midland Region

In Q2 2025, nearly two thirds (64%) of employment in the Midland region was in the top 6 sectors, up slightly from 62% Q2 2024.

Figure 2. Top 6 sectors of employment, Q2 2024-Q2 2025



Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

Table 2. Employment change by sector*: top 6 sectors (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)

Top 6 Sectors	Midland	%	State	%
Industry	6,100	32%		2%
Health	-2,800	-13%		4%
Wholesale & retail	-3,600	-16%		2%
Construction	1,600	13%		18%
PAD	2,200	21%		-4%
Education	-1,000	-7%		4%

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

Outside the Top 6 Sectors*

The largest absolute increase was for

- ▲ Admin/support (+2,500)
- ▲ Accom/food (+1,100)
- ▲ Public admin/defence (+2,200)

The only declines were for

- ▼ Agriculture (-3,200)
- ▼ Professional services (-800)

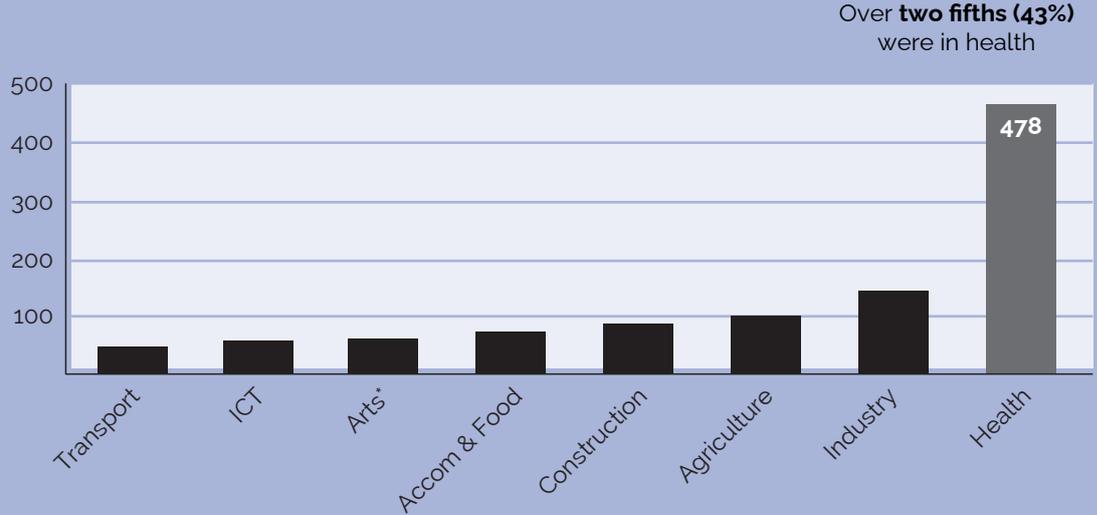
*Excludes Finance and ICT sectors as numbers are too small to report.

Employment permits in the Midland Region

At
1,120

in 2024, the Midland region had the smallest number of new employment permits issued, and made up 3% of the total.

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



Over **two fifths (43%)** were in health

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

The top **5 occupations*** accounted for **53%** of new permits (Midland 2024)



203
Nurses



129
Healthcare assistants



113
Doctors



81
Welders/
fabricators



72
Chefs

Source: DETE

*Other job titles included HGV drivers, farm assistants (e.g. dairy, pig), meat process operatives, and engineers (civil, mechanical, design, software).

Companies with recent job announcements in the region

Numbers of jobs announced	
Center Parcs	250
Dovida	140
Midland Steel	60
G&F Precision	30
Kirby Group Engineering	30
Anitech/Rhomu Ltd	15



IDA job creation pipeline in the Midland Region

158

jobs announced in 2024*, accounting for 1% of the total, mostly across the ICT and financial sectors.

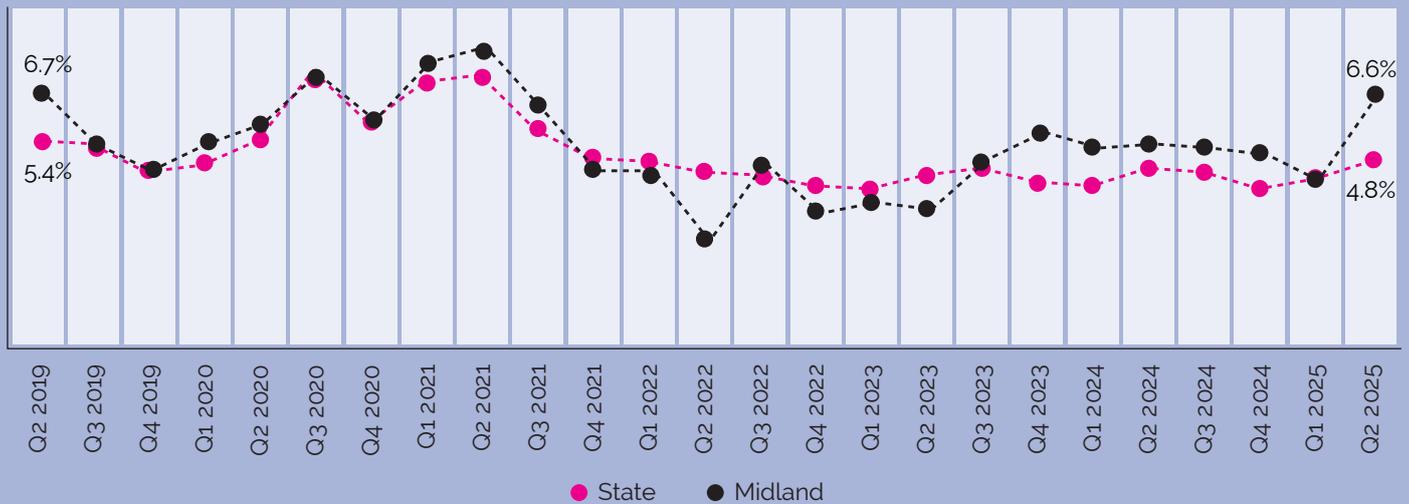
Table 3. IDA jobs announced in the Midland region, 2024

Occupation	Jobs announced
Professionals, of which	126
IT professionals	99
Other (inc engineers, QA/QC professionals & scientists)	27
Associate professionals, of which	26
Production technicians	19
Other associate professionals	7
Other occupations (managers, admin)	6
Total	158

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

Unemployment* in the Midland Region

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



Numbers unemployed Q2 2025



11,200

Change from Q2 2024



2,400
unemployed persons

UE rate Q2 2025

6.6%

Change in UE rate from Q2 2024



1.3 percentage points

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

Live Register – Midland Region, October 2025

Of the 11,380 persons on the Live Register in the Midland region in October 2025,



36% had been on the register for a year or longer



46% were aged 25-44 years

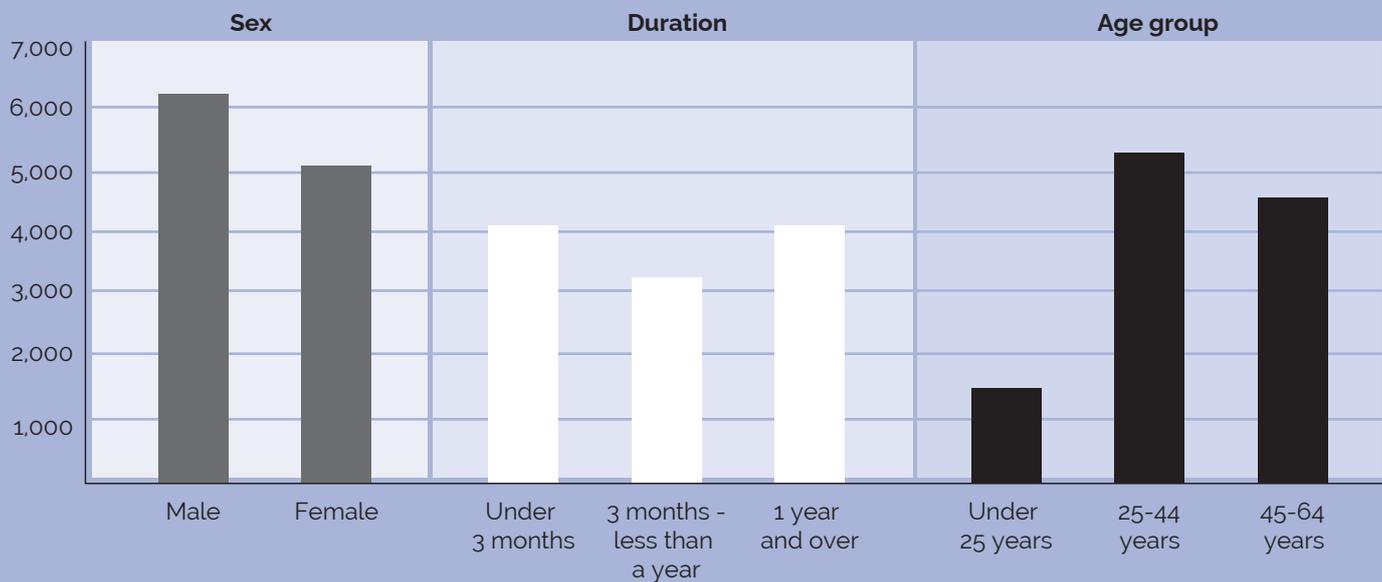


55% at 6,214 males outnumbered females



31% were in Co. Westmeath; 53% were either in Co. Laois or Co. Offaly

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



Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (Live Register) data

Overall Comments: Midland Region

- The Midland region has **the smallest regional workforce in Ireland**, at 158,300 persons in employment in Q2 2025.
- The Midland region was one of only two regions (the other being the Mid-East region) to experience a **decline in employment** numbers in the year to Q2 2025, with 1,700 fewer workers (-1%).
- Over the same period, this region had the largest absolute increase in the numbers employed in industry (+6,100, or +32%).
- The Midland region had **the highest unemployment rate** across all regions at 6.6% in Q2 2025, although this corresponded to just 12,200 unemployed persons.