

Key Labour Market Indicators¹ Q2 2025

	West	State
Population (0+ years)	519,700	5,458,200
Population by education level (25-64 years)		
FET (NFQ 4-6)	13%	13%
Third level	55%	57%
Working age population (15-64 years)	335,900	3,597,400
Labour force participation rate (15 years +)	65.6%	66.4%
Males	71.0%	71.6%
Females	60.2%	61.3%
Employment (15 years +)	269,300	2,818,100
% Total national employment	10%	100%
Employment growth (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	6.5%	2.3%
Males	7.3%	3.0%
Females	5.6%	1.5%
Employment change (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	16,400	63,900
Males	9,800	43,700
Females	6,600	20,200
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.8%
Share of workforce working from home (sometimes or usually)	30.1%	35.9%

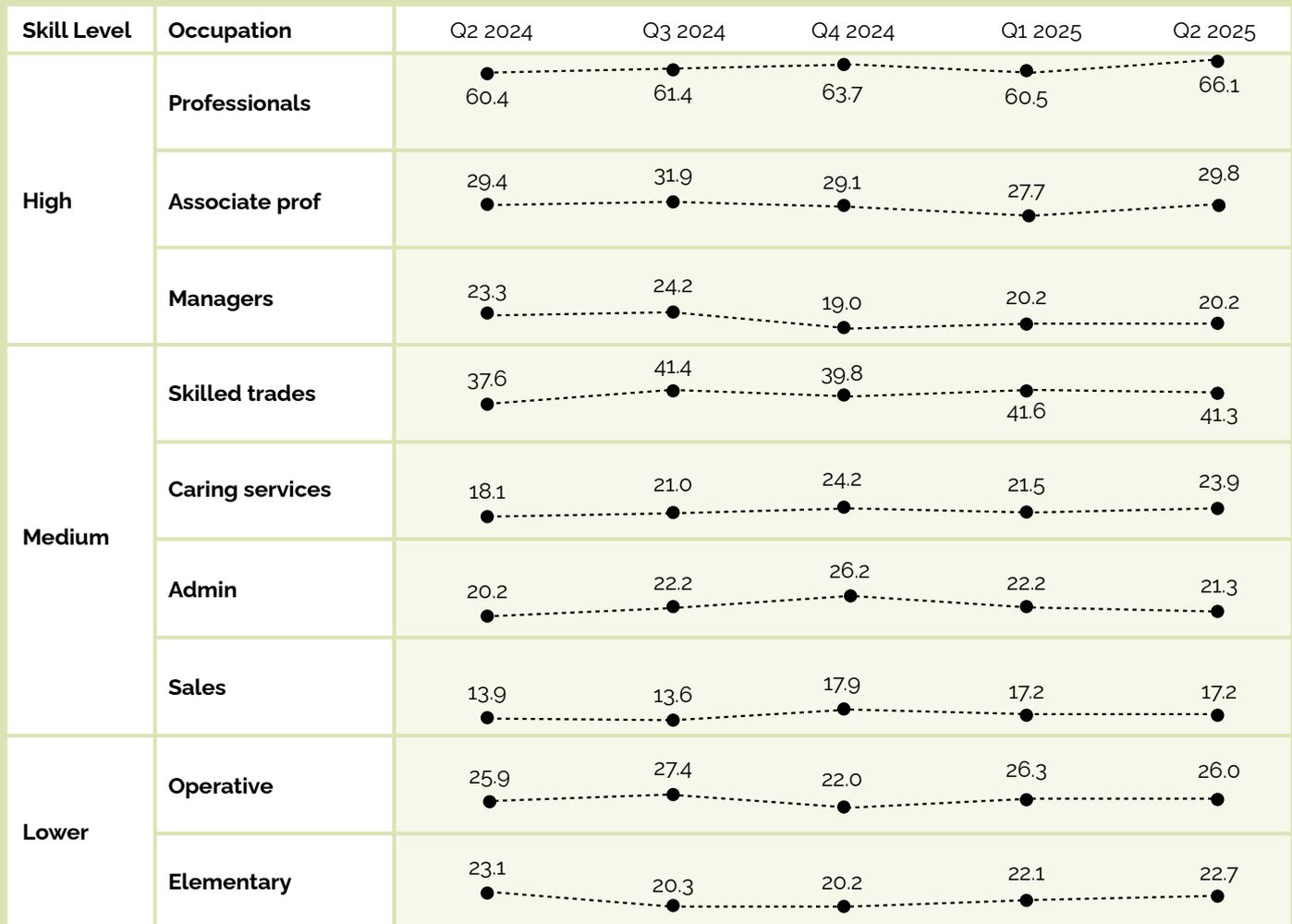
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

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 West Region

More than two fifths (43%) of employment in Q2 2025 was in high skilled occupations; 39% were in medium-skilled occupations.

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	West		State
		Change	% Change	% Change
High	Managers	-3,100	-13%	4%
	Professionals	5,700	9%	5%
	Assoc. prof	400	1%	-2%
	Total	3,000	3%	3%
Medium	Admin	1,100	5%	2%
	Caring services	5,800	32%	3%
	Skilled trades	3,700	10%	4%
	Sales	3,300	24%	1%
	Total	13,900	15%	3%
Lower	Operative	100	0%	1%
	Elementary	-400	-2%	1%
	Total	-300	-1%	1%

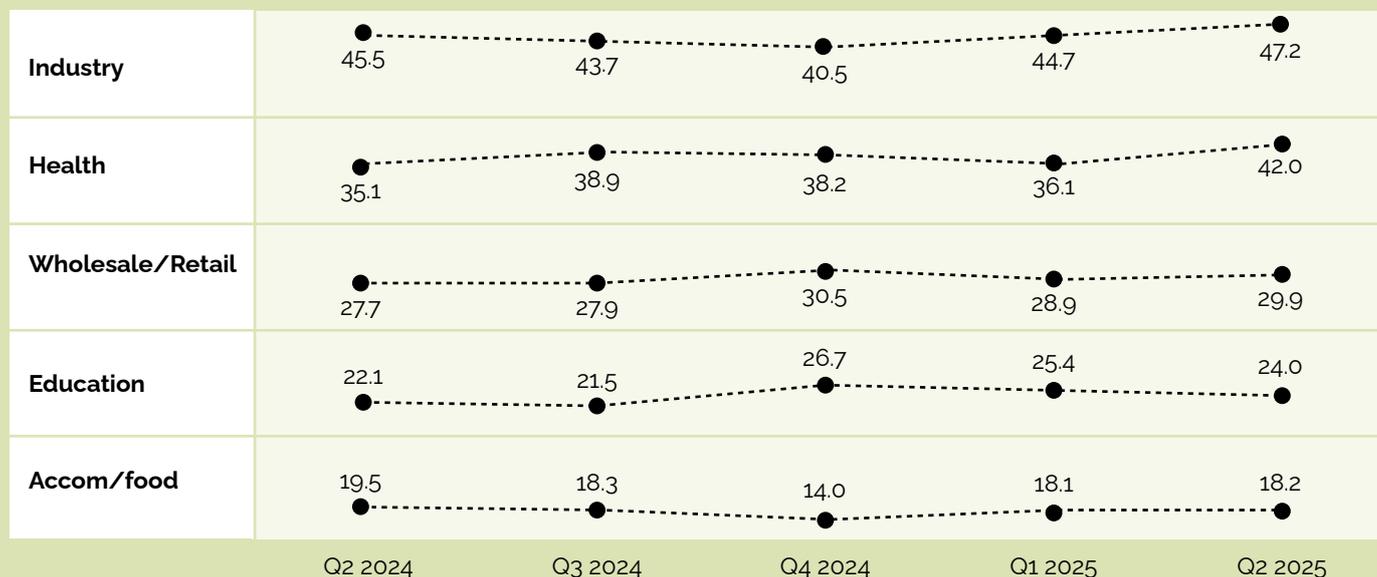
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data; excludes not stated

- With 43% of regional employment, the share in **high skilled occupations** was lower than the national average (46%); the share in **lower skilled occupations** (18%) was higher than average.
- **Medium skilled occupations** contributed to most (over two fifths) of the total employment growth in the region in the year to Q2 2025, driven in particular by a 32% increase in the numbers working in caring services occupations.
- The increase in **skilled trades** occupations between Q2 2024 and Q2 2025 was due largely to growth of 3,100 in the number of farmers employed.

Sectoral Employment in the West Region

60% of employment was in the top five sectors in Q2 2025, slightly higher than the previous year (59%).

Figure 2. Top 5 sectors of employment, 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	West		State	
	Industry	%	Industry	%
Industry	1,700	4%	2,400	2%
Health	6,900	20%	6,900	4%
Wholesale & retail	2,200	8%	2,200	2%
Education	1,900	9%	1,900	4%
Accom/food	-1,300	-7%	-1,300	-2%

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

Outside the Top 5 Sectors

The largest absolute increases were in

- ▲ Agriculture (3,000)
- ▲ Construction (2,300)
- ▲ Public admin & defence (2,400)

The largest absolute falls were in

- ▼ ICT (-1,800)
- ▼ Other NACE* (-600)

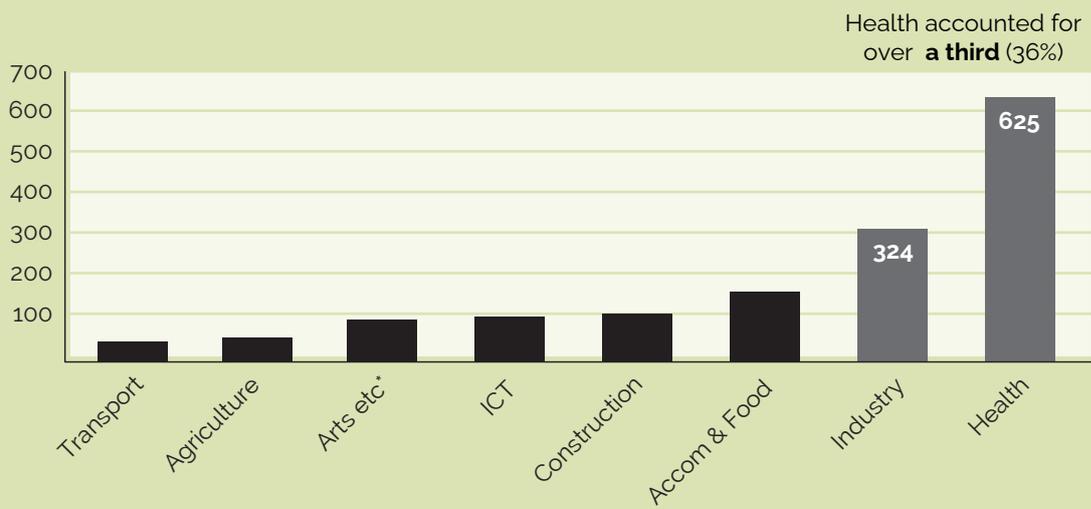
*Other NACE comprises arts & entertainment, personal services (e.g. hairdressing) etc.

Employment Permits in the West Region

1,731

new employment permits issued in 2024, representing 5% of the total.

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



*Arts comprises arts, entertainment and recreation and other services

The top 5 occupations* made up 46% of new permits in the West (2024)



268
Nurses



206
Doctors



143
Chefs



109
Healthcare assistants



80
ICT professionals

Source: DETE

*Other job titles included engineers (QC, electrical, mechanical), meat processing operatives, welders, drivers (HGV, bus).

Companies with recent job announcements in the region

Numbers of jobs announced	
Aerogen (over the next 10 years)	725
Neurent Medica	125
Mbryonics	125
Datavant	125
ICS Medical Devices	72
Ovagen	60
Hollister	50
Griffdon Engineering	48
Kappture	20



IDA job creation pipeline in the West region

2,149

jobs announced in 2024*, representing 16% of the total; most were for the manufacturing & finance sectors.

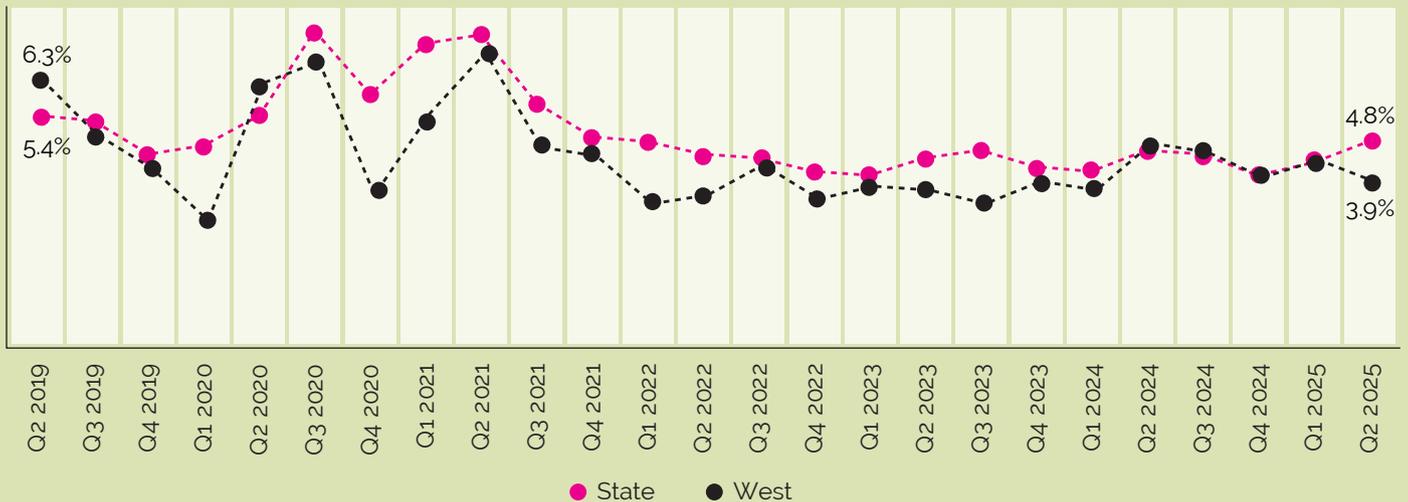
Table 3. IDA jobs announced in the West region, 2024

Occupation	Jobs announced
Professionals, of which	1,108
IT professionals	768
Engineers n.e.c. (including pharma, general, mechanical, etc)	226
Other professionals	114
Process operatives	655
Associate professionals, of which	278
Planning, process and production technicians	106
IT operations technicians	100
Laboratory technicians	51
Other	21
Admin & secretarial (mostly financial)	57
Managers	51
Total	2,149

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

Unemployment* in the West Region

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



Numbers unemployed
Q2 2025

10,900

Change from Q2 2024

-1,700
unemployed persons

UE rate Q2 2025

3.9%

Change in UE rate
from Q2 2024

-0.9 percentage points

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

Live Register - West Region, October 2025

Of the 14,565 persons on the Live Register in the West region in October 2025,



had been on the register for a year or longer



were aged 25-44 years

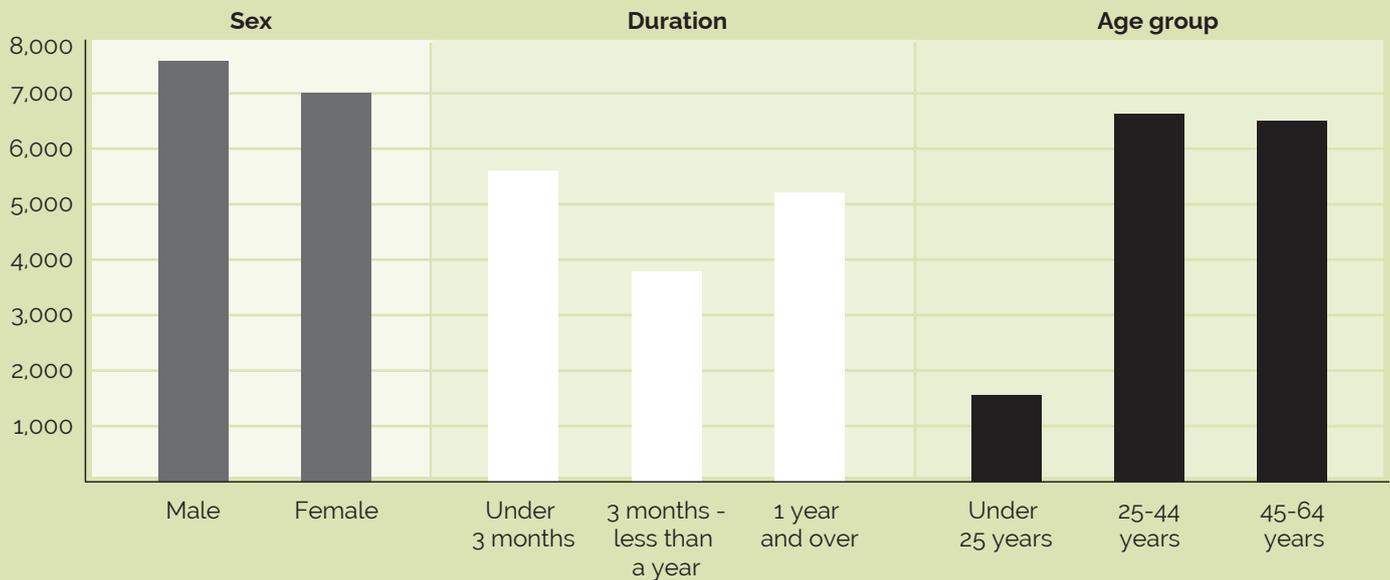


at 7,599 males outnumbered females



71% were in Co. Galway

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



Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (Live Register) data

Overall Comments: South West Region

- The West region **had the largest absolute and relative growth in employment levels** over the period Q2 2024-Q2 2025, with 16,400 additional workers (+6.5%).
- Employment growth in the region was driven, in particular, by **medium-skilled** occupations (13,900 additional workers).
- **Industry** made up nearly 18% of total regional employment in the West, the highest share observed nationally and well above the 12% State average in Q2 2025.
- This region had the **lowest unemployment rate** nationally (3.9%), below the national average of 4.8%.