

Key Labour Market Indicators ¹ Q2 2025	Border	State
Population (0+ years)	442,500	5,458,200
Population by education level (25-64 years)		
FET (NFQ 4-6)	13%	13%
Third level	48%	57%
Working age population (15-64 years)	276,800	3,597,400
Labour force participation rate (15 years +)	63.3%	66.4%
Males	69.7%	71.6%
Females	57%	61.3%
Employment (15 years +)	215,400	2,818,100
% Total national employment	8%	100%
Employment growth (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	3%	2.3%
Males	8%	3.0%
Females	-2.6%	1.5%
Employment change (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	6,200	63,900
Males	8,700	43,700
Females	-2,600	20,200
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.8%
Share of workforce working from home (sometimes or usually)	24.1%	35.9%

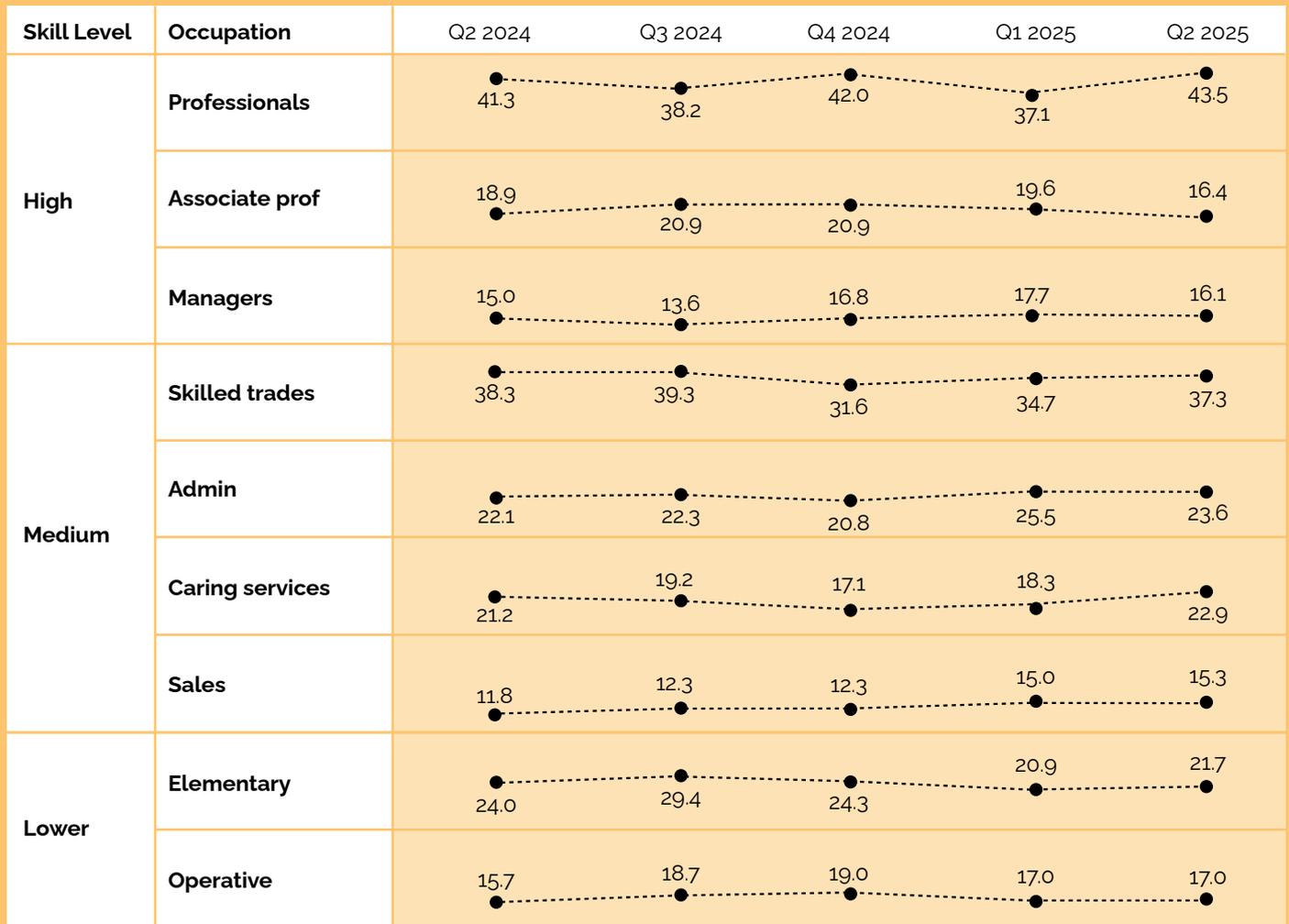
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

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 Border Region

In Q2 2025, a third (36%) of employment in the Border was in high skilled occupations and nearly a half (46%) was 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	Border		State
		Change	% Change	% Change
High	Managers	1,100	7%	4%
	Professionals	2,200	5%	5%
	Assoc. prof	-2,500	-13%	-2%
	Total	800	1%	3%
Medium	Admin	1,500	7%	2%
	Caring services	1,700	8%	3%
	Skilled trades	-1,000	-3%	4%
	Sales	3,500	30%	1%
	Total	5,700	6%	3%
Lower	Operative	1,300	8%	1%
	Elementary	-2,300	-10%	1%
	Total	-1,000	-3%	1%

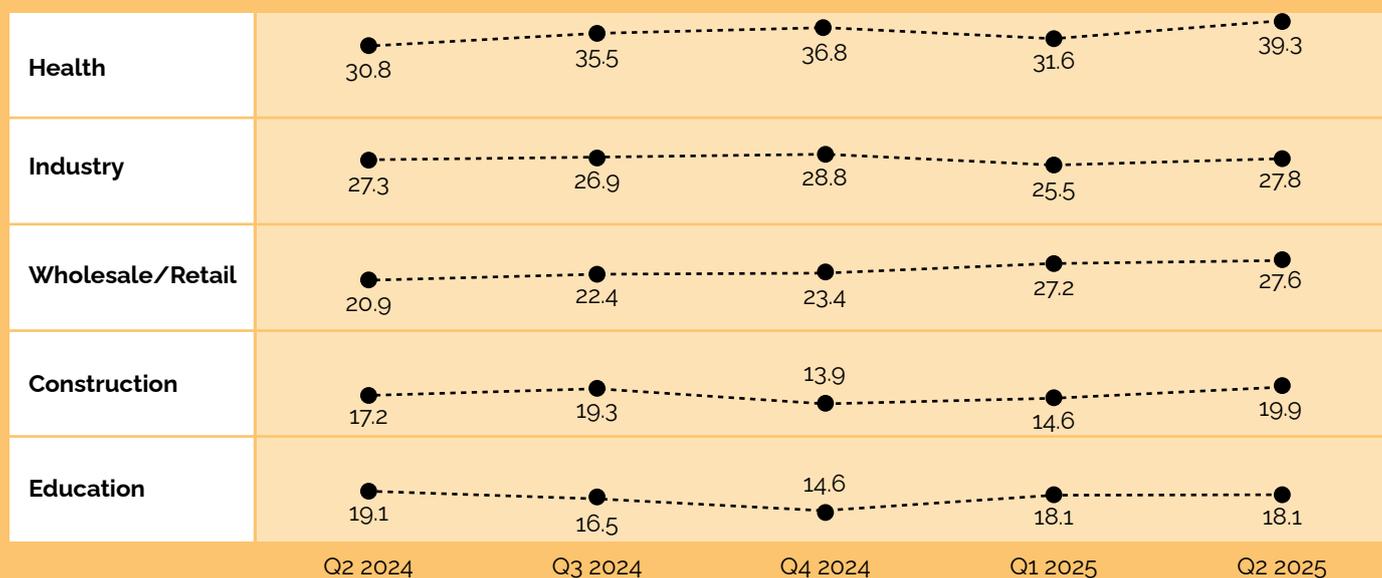
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data; excludes not stated

- The share of regional employment in high-skilled occupations was below the national average (46%). At 76,000 in quarter 2 2025, **employment in high skilled occupations remained broadly unchanged** compared to quarter 2 2024 (just 800 extra employed).
- The share in **medium skilled occupations** was considerably higher than the national average (37%).
- Of the 37,300 in **skilled trades** occupations, 10,800 farmers. The decline in the number in skilled trades was mostly, although not entirely, due to a fall in the number of farmers (-900).
- Persons employed in **lower skilled occupations** accounted for 18% of total employment (38,700 workers).

Sectoral employment in the Border Region

Nearly two thirds (62%) of Border region employment was in the top five sectors in Q2 2025, up from 55% one year earlier, driven by strong increases in health and wholesale/retail.

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	Border Change	%	State Change	%
Health	8,500	28%		4%
Industry	500	2%		2%
Wholesale/retail	6,700	32%		2%
Construction	2,700	16%		18%
Education	-1,000	-5%		4%

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

Outside the Top 5 Sectors

The largest absolute **increase** was for:

▲ Professional services (+1,000)

The largest absolute **falls** were for:

▼ Accommodation/food (-5,300) ▼ Other NACE* (-3,100)

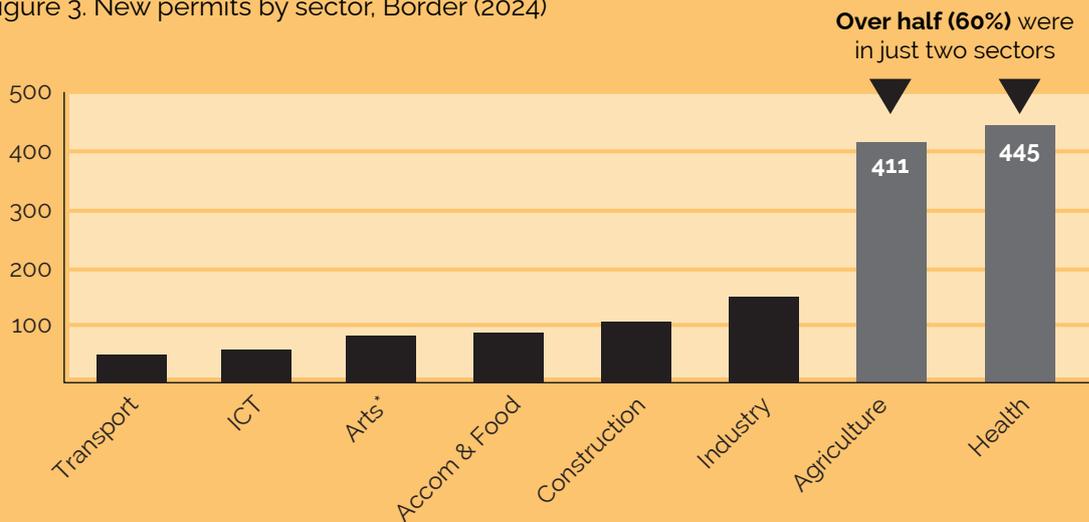
*Other NACE comprises arts & entertainment, personal services (e.g. hairdressing) etc.

Employment permits

1,415

new employment permits issued in 2024, making up 4% of all new employment permits nationally.

Figure 3. New permits by sector, Border (2024)



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

The top 5 occupations* made up 60% of the new permits (Border 2024)



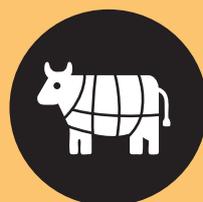
234
Horticulture and farm assistants



199
Nurses



188
Doctors



153
Meat processing operatives



79
Chefs

Source: DETE

*Other job titles included carpenters, welders, healthcare assistants, mechanics, HGV drivers and software developers.

Companies with recent job announcements in the region

Numbers of jobs announced	
Crust and Crumb	120
EY	80
Galetech	64
Source Civil	50
GerTEK	21
Slick+	12
Phibro Animals Health	n/a



IDA job creation pipeline in the Border region

587

jobs approved in 2024*, representing 4% of the total; most were in the manufacturing and financial sectors.

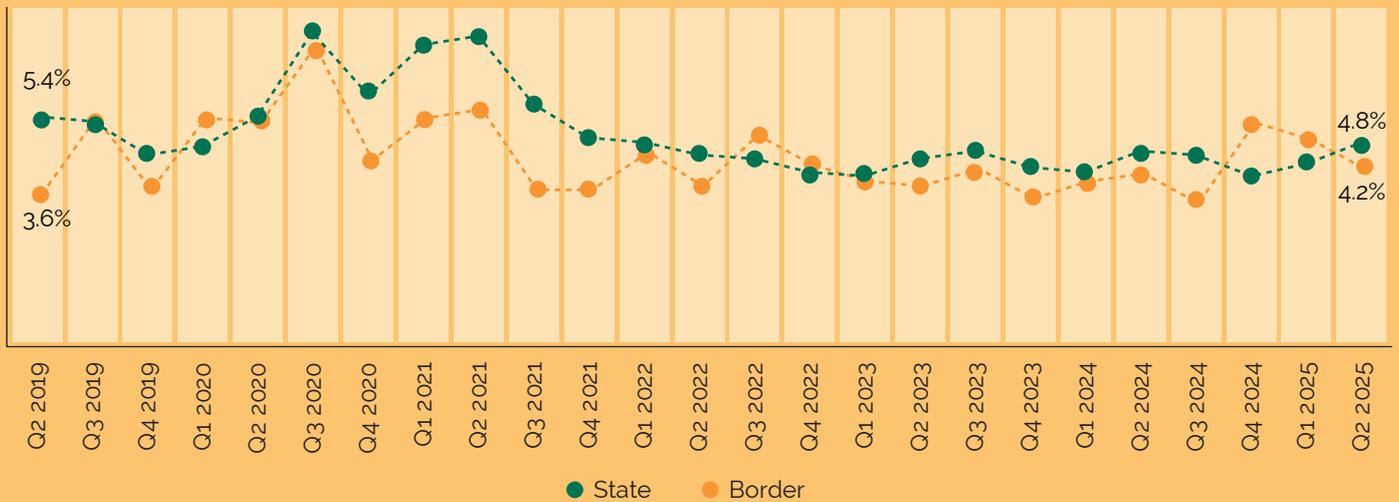
Table 3. IDA jobs announced in the Border region, 2024

Occupation	Jobs announced
Professionals, of which	154
Engineers (e.g. QA/QC, product/process, general)	84
Biological scientists	70
Associate professionals, of which	63
Business & finance associate professionals	41
Process & other technicians	22
Operatives (e.g. process for high-tech manufacturing)	323
Admin	31
Other (managers, skilled trades)	16
Total	587

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

Unemployment* in the Border region

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



Numbers unemployed Q2 2025

9,300

Change from Q2 2024

400
unemployed persons

UE rate Q2 2025

4.2%

Change in UE rate from Q2 2024

0.1 percentage points

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

Live Register - Border Region, October 2025

Of the 15,144 persons on the Live Register in the Border region in October 2025,



had been on the register for a year or longer



were aged 25-44 years

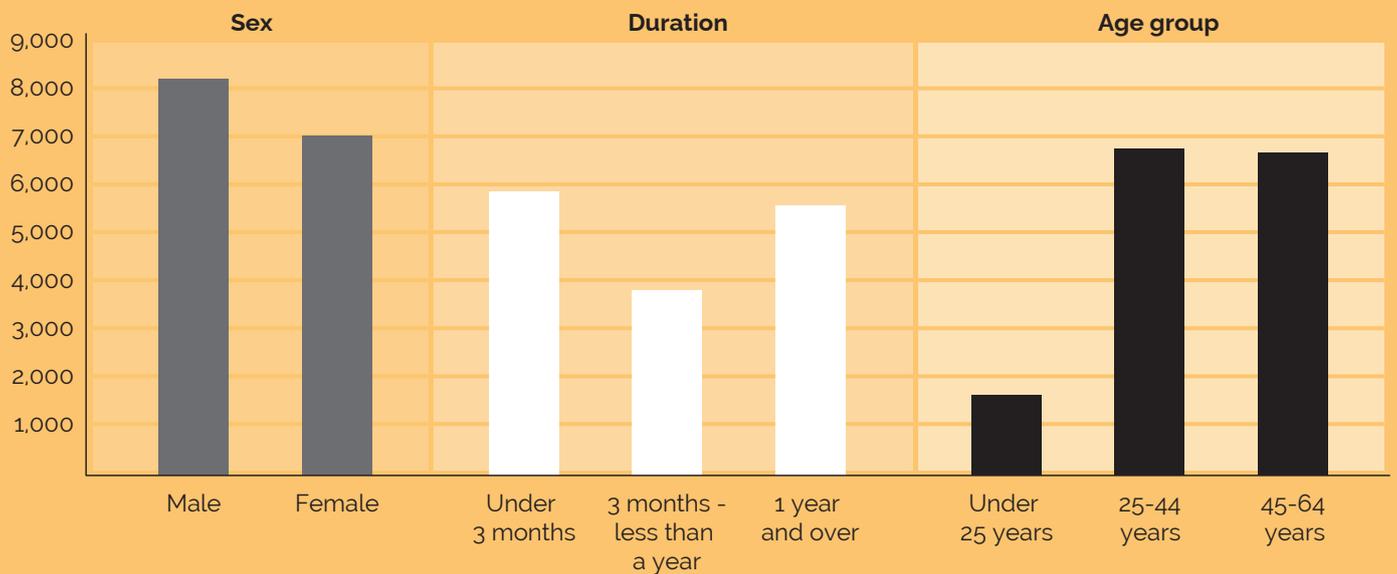


at 8,179 males outnumbered females



were in Co. Donegal; 30% were either in Co. Cavan or Co. Sligo

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



Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (Live Register) data

Overall Comments: Border region

- The Border was the **only region where the number of females in employment fell** (by 2,600 persons) in the year to quarter 2 2025.
- In Q2 2025, the share of regional employment in **high skilled occupations was lowest** in the Border region (35.6%).
- This region had the lowest share of its workforce **who usually or sometimes work from home** (24.1%) compared to the national average of nearly 36%.
- More than half (59%) of the total increase in employment in the **health sector** that occurred in Ireland between Q2 2024 and Q2 2025 was in the Border region (+8,500 workers).