

July 2026

Occupational Projections for Ireland **2026–2030**

Skills & Labour Market Research Unit



SOLAS

An tSeirbhís Oideachais
Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna
Further Education and
Training Authority

Acknowledgements

The Skills & Labour Market Research Unit (SLMRU) in SOLAS are very grateful for the feedback and guidance received from colleagues in the Department of Finance, Central Bank, Department of Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (DETE), Enterprise Ireland, IDA, IBEC, HEA, SOLAS and Cambridge Econometrics in the development of this model.

While grateful for the comments received, the responsibility for the projections presented in this report and any errors made lies exclusively with the authors.



Table of Contents

Key findings	4
1. Introduction	6
1.1 Background.....	7
1.2 Objectives.....	8
1.3 Interpretation of results.....	8
2. Sectoral Employment Projections	9
2.1 Methodology.....	10
2.2 Macroeconomic projections.....	11
2.3 Productivity and employment assumptions.....	12
2.4 Results: Employment projections by sector.....	16
3. Occupational Employment Projections	19
3.1 Methodology.....	20
3.2 Results.....	21
3.2.1 Science & engineering.....	21
3.2.2 ICT.....	22
3.2.3 Business & financial.....	22
3.2.4 Healthcare	23
3.2.5 Education.....	24
3.2.6 Social & care.....	24
3.2.7 Legal & security.....	25
3.2.8 Construction.....	26
3.2.9 Other craft.....	27
3.2.10 Agriculture & animal care	28
3.2.11 Hospitality.....	28
3.2.12 Arts, sports & tourism.....	29
3.2.13 Transport & logistics.....	30
3.2.14 Administrative & secretarial.....	30
3.2.15 Sales, marketing & customer services.....	31
3.2.16 Operatives & elementary.....	32
4. Construction Scenario	33
Appendix A: Sectoral breakdown	36
Appendix B: Occupational breakdown	38

Key findings

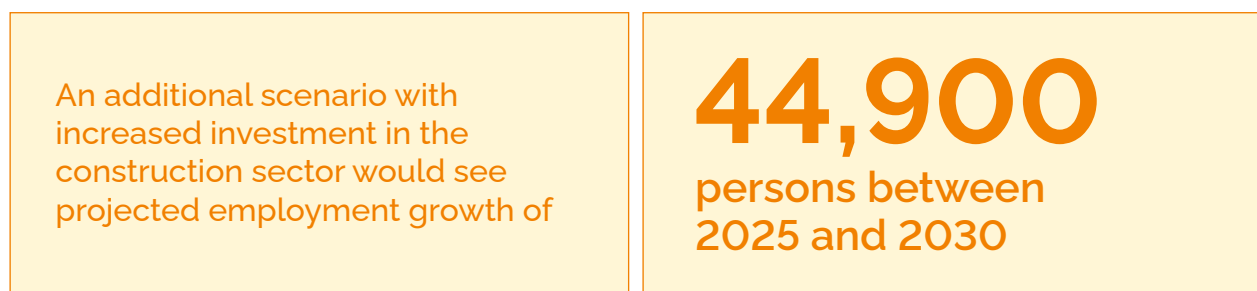


*based on Department of Finance macroeconomic projections



*based on Productivity Adjusted Scenario sectoral projections (see Section 2)

Construction scenario



*based on Construction Scenario projections (see Section 4)

At broad occupational level, the strongest employment growth (2025-2030) projected for:



+21,600
Science & engineering



+19,600
Construction



+18,700
Healthcare

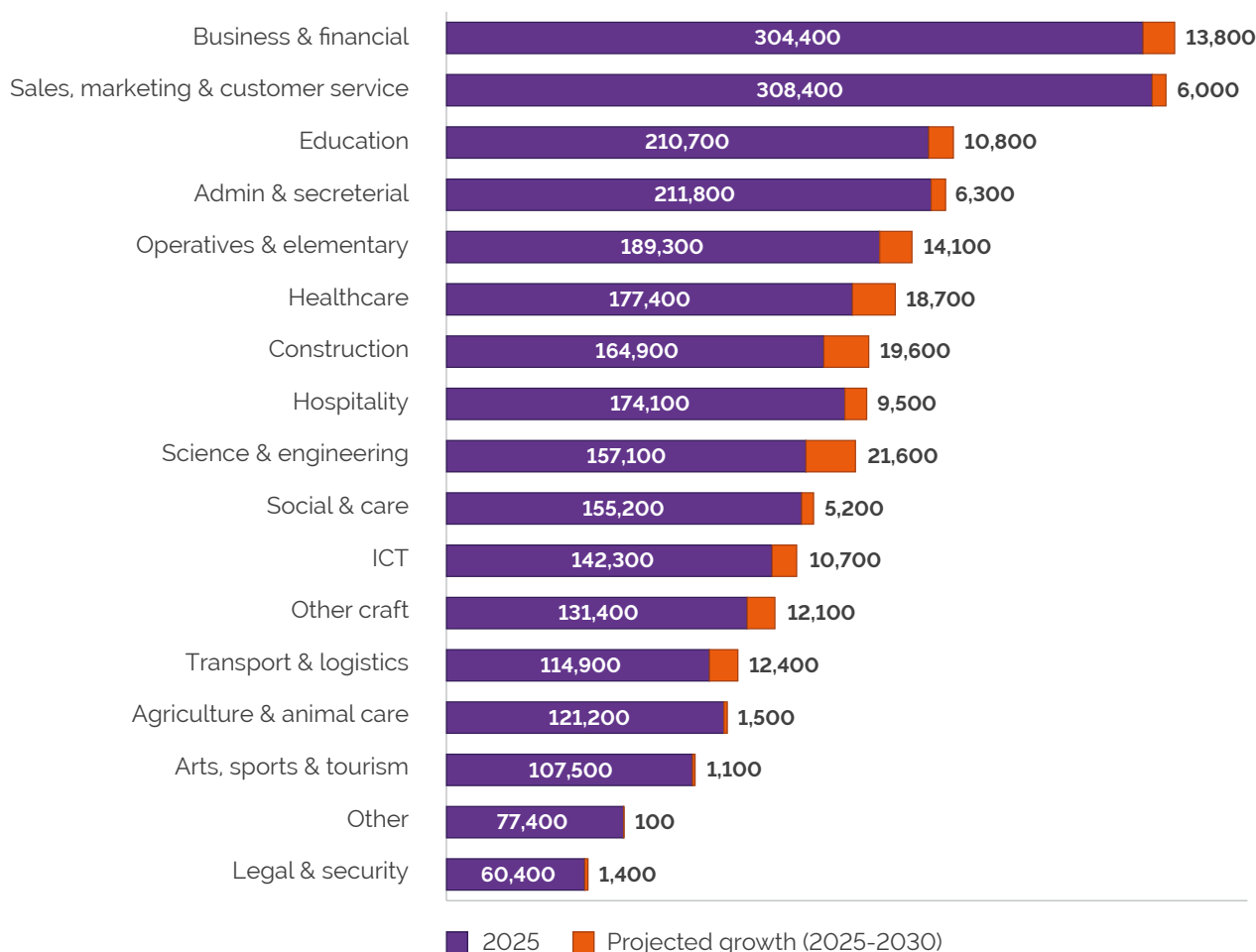
These three occupational groups are projected to account for



37%
of total growth by 2030

*based on Productivity Adjusted Scenario sectoral projections (see Section 3)

Employment in broad occupational groups, 2025 and projected growth (2025-2030)



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

*based on Productivity Adjusted Scenario sectoral projections (see Section 3)



1.

Introduction



The Skills & Labour Market Research Unit (SLMRU) in SOLAS have undertaken the development of a structure to produce regular occupational projections based on available macroeconomic projections for Ireland. The primary purpose is to inform skills policy and education and training provision.

1.1 Background

A key recommendation of the OECD Skills Strategy report was that Ireland should develop regular national occupational forecasts.¹ The most recent occupational forecasts for Ireland were published in 2013 by the SLMRU.² Since then, the ESRI Hermes model, which produced the sectoral forecasts used as a basis for the occupational forecasts, was replaced by the COSMO model, and detailed sectoral forecasts were no longer available. In the interim years, occupational forecasts produced by CEDEFOP for all EU countries were the only available source of occupational projections for Ireland.³ Although each country, including Ireland, informs the production of these forecasts, their purpose is not to act as a replacement for national forecasts.

In 2025, the SLMRU engaged consultants, Cambridge Econometrics, to build a sectoral forecast model for Ireland which could be maintained, updated and adapted in-house to allow for a versatile and up-to-date projection instrument. Following stakeholder engagement, the sectoral forecasts were applied to detailed occupational data from the CSO's Labour Force Survey.⁴ An additional scenario on increased investment in the construction sector and its implications for skills was also produced.

1 [OECD Skills Strategy Ireland | OECD](#)

2 [SOLAS Occupational Employment Forecasts 2013](#)

3 For example: [summer-skills-bulletin.pdf](#)

4 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.

1.2 Objectives

The overall project aim is to provide **timely/regular** indications of **potential future demand for key job roles** based on national macroeconomic projections and historical trends.

This output is planned to be the first of many iterations of the occupational projections, with the aim of producing annual updates on the potential impacts of macroeconomic projections for Ireland on demand at occupational level. It is also the intention that future iterations will build on the work of the previous versions, refining and producing additional scenarios as required.

1.3 Interpretation of results

These projections are based on national macroeconomic forecasts produced by the Department of Finance. It is assumed that consideration of available labour supply and migration flows have already been considered in these macro projections and are therefore not explored here.

While much consideration has been given to determining the outputs at both sectoral and occupational levels, these remain projections and should be considered a guide to a potential direction of travel rather than exact estimations of future employment. While these limitations should be borne in mind, the occupational projections can provide valuable insights into the potential knock-on effects of broad changes in the economic conditions for jobs in Ireland.

As previously stated, this report represents the first output from the new model with more work to be done in future years to build on the knowledge and skills gained from producing these outputs and input from relevant stakeholders to continuously refine the model.



2.

Sectoral Employment Projections

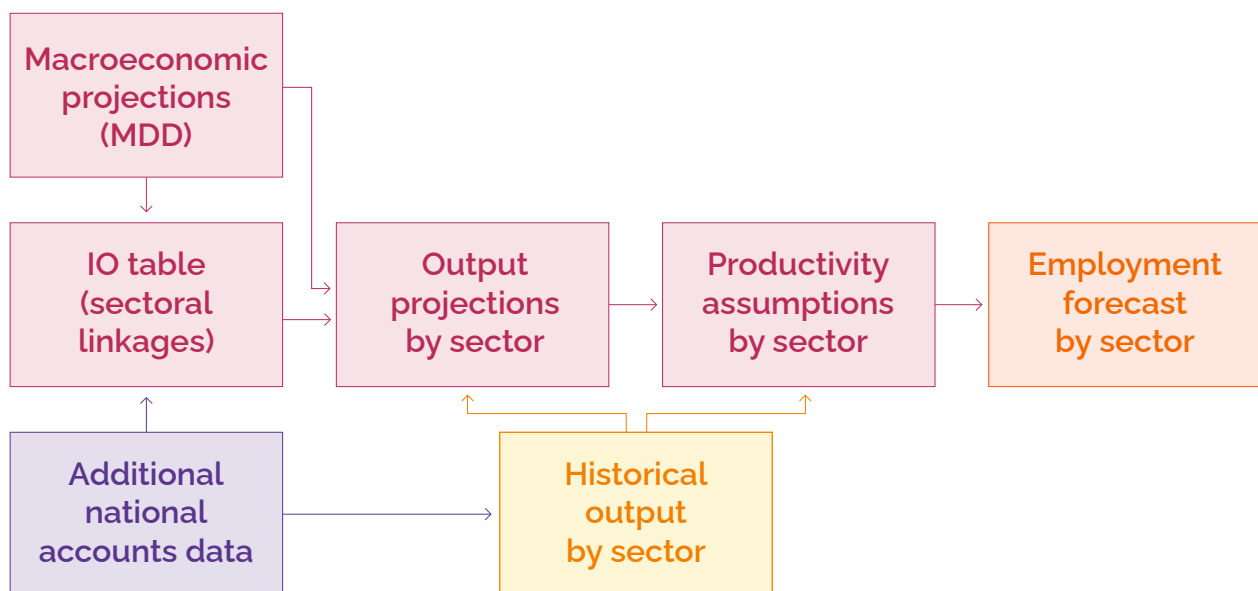


2.1 Methodology

The sectoral projections model developed by Cambridge Econometrics for Ireland is outlined in Figure 2.1. Most economic models are based on GDP levels; however, due to the distorting effect of multi-national enterprises in Ireland's GDP measure, modified domestic demand (MDD) was considered a more suitable fit. Input Output (IO) tables, produced by the CSO, were combined with other relevant National Accounts data to determine historical output by 38 sectors (as detailed in Appendix A). Macroeconomic projections to 2030, produced by the Department of Finance (DoF) (see Section 2.2), were then used to estimate future output by sector. Economic forecasts produced by both the Central Bank and the ESRI were also considered although the forecast period is shorter for these sources.

Historical productivity levels were calculated by dividing output by employment for each of the historical years. To determine future employment levels by sectors, assumptions on productivity levels were required. Two productivity scenarios were developed for this project and are further detailed in Section 2.3. Applying these productivity scenarios to the output projections results in the estimated employment projections by sector.

Figure 2.1: Sectoral Employment Forecast Framework



Source: Cambridge Econometrics

2.2 Macroeconomic projections

This model uses the macroeconomic projections in the Department of Finance's Budget 2026: Economic & Fiscal Outlook report,^{5 6} and are summarised in Table 2.1 below. These projections see a slow-down in employment growth over the forecast period from 2025-2030, with overall employment growth easing to 0.9% per annum in the latter end of the forecast period. Some minor fluctuations in modified domestic demand (MDD) are projected over the period to 2030, averaging at 2.9% between 2025 and 2030. The components of MDD (namely personal consumption, government spending and investment) are projected to grow over the period, with the strongest growth for modified investment. Export growth is also projected to continue, albeit at lower levels than have been seen in recent years.

Table 2.1: Macroeconomic projections to 2030

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Employment (000s)	2,757	2,819	2,860	2,896	2,926	2,954	2,981
Employment (% change)	2.7%	2.2%	1.5%	1.2%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%
Modified Domestic Demand (% change)	1.8%	3.3%	2.3%	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%
- Personal consumption (% change)	2.9%	2.9%	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%
- Government consumption (% change)	5.3%	3.0%	3.0%	2.7%	2.3%	2.0%	1.8%
- Modified investment (% change)	-4.2%	4.7%	1.7%	4.4%	4.8%	5.2%	4.8%
Export growth (%)	8.6%	7.5%	1.5%	4.5%	3.2%	3.0%	3.0%

Source: Department of Finance: Budget 2026: Economic & Fiscal Outlook

5 [Budget 2026: Economic and fiscal outlook](#)

6 The Department of Finance have since updated their macroeconomic forecasts ([Annual Progress Report](#)) with employment projections in 2030 reaching 2.996 million, an increase of 15,000 persons employed compared to their Autumn 2025 projections

2.3 Productivity and employment assumptions

The economic projections for the economy allow us to estimate how the output across sectors is likely to be distributed. To determine how output by sector translates into employment numbers, an estimate of productivity levels within sectors over the forecast period is also required, bearing in mind that employment levels are capped using the DoF projections outlined in Table 2.1.⁷

For this iteration of the projections, two scenarios have been developed. In the **Baseline Scenario**, productivity projections are kept constant at 2024 levels (regardless of previous fluctuations). For the **Productivity Adjusted Scenario**, a number of assumptions are made for each of the 38 sectors in the model based on historical trends and the potential productivity gains over the forecast period due to factors such as increased automation, AI and digitalisation (detailed in Table 2.2). These assumptions are based on both national and international research and data. This includes productivity data by sector from the CSO which shows that labour productivity (as measured by the amount of output per hour worked in a sector) has risen in recent years;⁸ external factors (such as the pandemic, disruptions to the global supply chain) which can impact productivity levels;⁹ and consideration of how productivity levels differ widely across domestic and foreign-owned enterprises¹⁰ in Ireland.^{11 12}

Along with the productivity assumptions, Table 2.2 also outlines some key trends which may impact employment across sectors over the forecast period. This, in part, draws from analysis produced in the most recent National Skills Bulletin.¹³

7 Over the period 2025-2030, employment levels are projected to increase by **163,000, representing an annual average increase of 1.1%**.

8 Productivity in Ireland Quarter 3 2024 - Central Statistics Office

9 Recent country-specific and sectoral developments in labour productivity in the Euro area

10 Foreign-owned multinational enterprise (MNE) dominated sectors are defined as those where MNE turnover on average exceeds 85% of the sector total. Economic activity classified to the Non-MNE dominated sector (named as domestic here) falls below this turnover threshold. [Foreign and Domestic GVA Quarterly National Accounts Quarter 4 2025 - Central Statistics Office](#); for more information on the sectoral breakdown, see Appendix A

11 Hare or tortoise? Productivity and growth of Irish domestic firms | ESRI

12 The CSO National Accounts data details the sectors (detailed in Appendix A) where economic activity is dominated by foreign-owned corporations.

13 National Skills Bulletin 2025

Table 2.2: Productivity and employment growth assumptions for Productivity Adjusted Scenario

	Productivity assumptions	Employment growth assumptions
Agriculture	Modern farming methods will result in some productivity gains although they are likely to be more evident in the latter part of the forecast period.	The older age profile of farmers will likely have an impact on employment growth in this sector.
Industry Foreign-owned	Productivity levels are already high in these sub-sectors and future growth is expected albeit at a more modest rate.	US tariffs have the potential to have knock-on effects for employment in these sectors but employment growth has been strong in recent years and notwithstanding economic shocks, employment is expected to grow.
Industry Domestic	Productivity levels have been historically much lower than in foreign-owned enterprises, although some productivity gains have been made in recent years: future productivity growth in the short-term at least is expected to be modest.	Employment (and growth) in this sub-sector is expected to be primarily driven by food processing.
Industry Other	Productivity gains are expected to be modest for these sectors.	Employment gains are expected to be modest.
Construction	Productivity in this sector is considered low; Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) are expected to increase productivity levels but take-up to date is low and unlikely to significantly impact on employment until the latter half of the forecast period at the earliest.	Demand for construction services is high, although growth is constrained by a number of factors such as access to finance and skilled labour.
Wholesale & retail trade	Online shopping and automated services are likely to have already contributed to increased productivity levels in this sector (based on CSO Labour Productivity data) with further, more modest, gains expected.	A more constrained economy may impact on consumption levels with a knock-on effect for employment in this sector. This combined with an increased reliance on online shopping and automated services, is likely to result in more modest growth. Over a third of employment is in part-time roles with most employment gains in recent years for these roles.

Transport & storage	While new technologies could increase productivity in land transport, it is likely to have a more significant impact on warehousing activities.	AI etc could reduce demand for some occupations in this sector.
Accommodation & food	CSO Labour Productivity data indicates that productivity in the sector fell during the pandemic and has yet to fully recover. This sector has not been identified as being affected by AI, particularly in the short term, but some technology advances could improve efficiencies over the forecast period.	A more constrained economy, reduced tourism, and rising cost of living will all have an impact on employment in this sector. Similar to wholesale & retail, this sector has a high share of persons working part-time (almost half).
ICT	Productivity levels have grown significantly in recent years with growth expected over the forecast period, albeit at a more modest rate.	AI is likely to have a significant impact on employment in this sector with potential gains in some areas (e.g. cybersecurity) and declines in others (e.g. programmers). Following high levels of expansion in recent years, growth in the sector has been more modest of late.
Financial activities	Productivity gains due to advanced technologies are expected over the forecast period.	Technological advances are likely to see reduced demand for financial admin roles but increased demand for high skilled roles (e.g. fin tech, regulation, cybersecurity).
Professional activities	Productivity gains are expected to be particularly focused on the legal/accounting sub-sector due to advanced technologies.	AI etc is expected to have an impact on employment demand for administrative roles (particularly in legal/accounting), graphic designers, and marketing.
Administrative & support	Some productivity gains are expected (e.g. call centre activity) due to AI etc.	AI etc will have an impact on call centre activities but less likely to have an impact on manual work such as cleaners and security.
Public administration & defence (PAD)	Some gains in productivity expected with increased use of digital technologies.	Employment grew strongly in this sector in recent years but growth is expected to be more moderate in a constrained economy.

Education	Productivity levels are not expected to change over the forecast period.	Employment levels have grown strongly in recent years. Economic restraints and a fall in the school age population will be somewhat balanced out by increased demand in secondary/post-secondary education and lifelong learning targets.
Health & welfare	Productivity levels have not seen any significant change in recent years but will be an essential requirement to meet future demand particularly given our ageing population; although productivity gains are expected to be low in the first half of the forecast period, increases are projected for the latter stages.	Employment growth has been strong in recent years but with more modest economic growth expected, productivity gains will be required to reduce the demand for skills in this sector.
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	Productivity levels are not expected to change significantly over the forecast period.	Demand for some roles in this sector (e.g. hairdressing) may be affected by consumer sentiment.



2.4 Results: Employment projections by sector

For both the **Baseline Scenario** (S1) and **Productivity Adjusted Scenario** (S2), Table 2.3 outlines employment by sector in 2019 and 2025, the projected employment levels in 2030, the overall change, and the annual average employment growth. As previously noted, the employment projections are capped based on DoF figures over the time period examined, with total employment in 2030 projected to rise to 2.981m persons by 2030. The division of this growth by sector is derived through the methodology described previously and the differing productivity assumptions across the two scenarios. These projections do not reflect any potential overall labour supply constraints as it is assumed that these are already considered in the DoF projections.

For the most part, the employment projections to 2030 across sectors for the two scenarios are broadly similar. This is partly due to the imposed cap on total employment of 2.981m in the model for both scenarios which reflects the DoF employment projections to 2030. The main differences in projected employment in 2030 across the two scenarios are:

- Higher employment projections in the Productivity Adjusted Scenario for health, industry, education, construction and ICT when compared to the Baseline Scenario
- Lower employment projections in the Productivity Adjusted Scenario for wholesale & retail trade, agriculture, professional activities, and administrative & support services when compared to the Baseline Scenario.

In relative terms, for the Baseline Scenario, the largest projected growth rates over the period 2025-2030 were for construction (2.4%), professional activities (1.5%) and ICT (1.4%), compared to the top three sectors in the Productivity Adjusted Scenario, construction (2.9%), industry (1.8%) and education (1.6%). The only sector projected to decline over the period to 2030 was agriculture based on the Productivity Adjusted Scenario only.

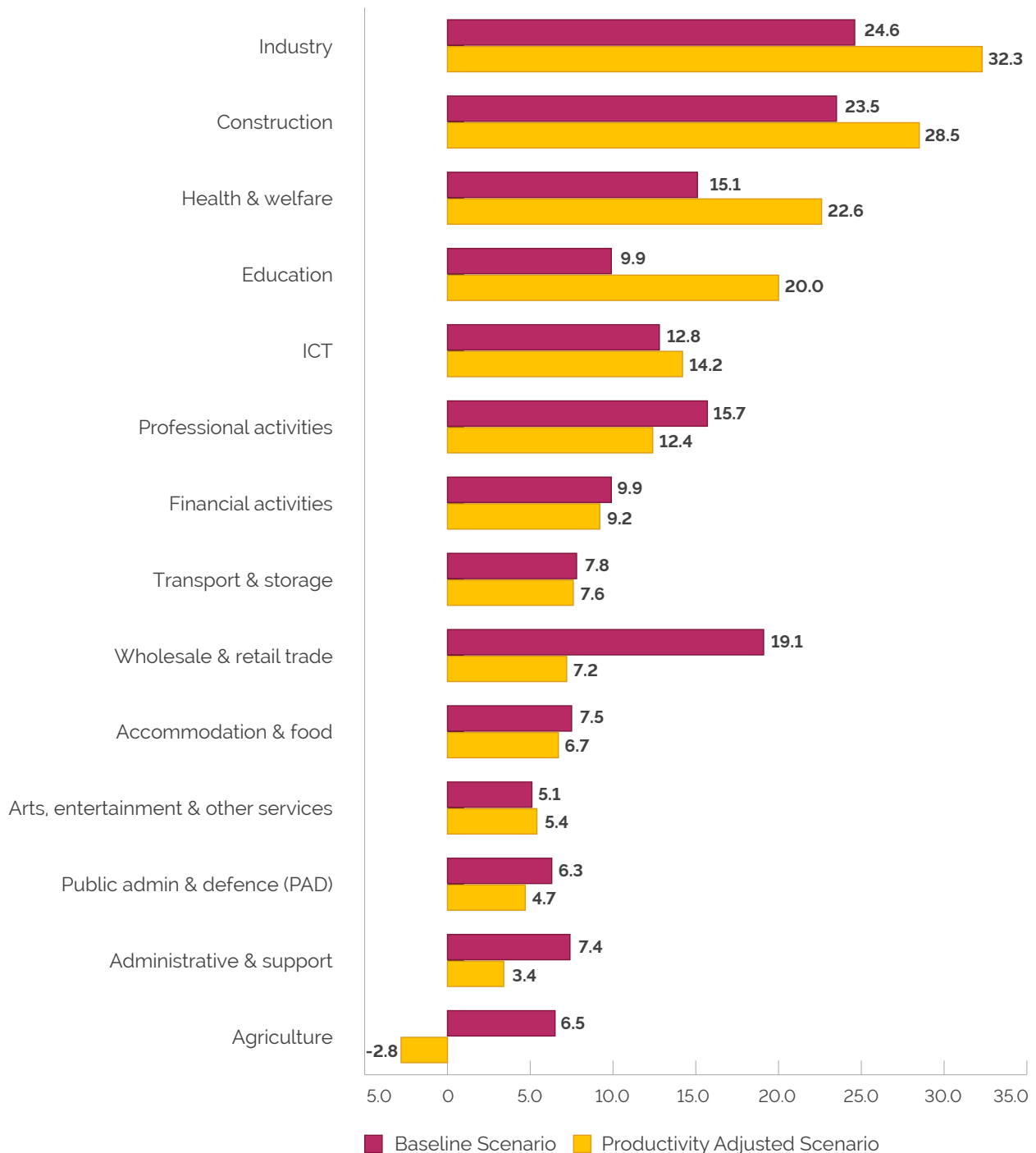
Table 2.3: Employment levels, change and annual average (AA) growth rates (2019, 2025 and 2030f) for Baseline Scenario (S1) and Productivity Adjusted Scenario (S2)

	2019-2025				2025-2030			
	Total employment (000s)		2019-2025 change		Total employment (000s)		AA employment change (%)	
	2019	2025	(000s)	AA growth (%)	2030f S1	2030f S2	S1	S2
Agriculture	104.0	108.8	4.8	0.8%	115.3	106.0	1.2%	-0.5%
Industry	289.3	347.0	57.7	3.1%	371.6	379.3	1.4%	1.8%
- Foreign owned	125.1	170.4	45.3	5.3%	182.8	186.5	1.4%	1.8%
- Domestic	124.0	127.6	3.6	0.5%	137.0	139.7	1.4%	1.8%
- Other	40.1	49.0	8.9	3.4%	51.8	53.1	1.1%	1.6%
Construction	147.7	184.4	36.7	3.8%	207.9	212.9	2.4%	2.9%
Wholesale & retail trade	304.5	323.7	19.2	1.0%	342.8	330.9	1.2%	0.4%
Transport & storage	106.2	126.3	20.1	2.9%	134.1	133.9	1.2%	1.2%
Accommodation & food	179.7	185.4	5.7	0.5%	192.9	192.1	0.8%	0.7%
ICT	124.5	180.0	55.5	6.3%	192.8	194.2	1.4%	1.5%
Financial activities	113.6	146.8	33.2	4.4%	156.7	156.0	1.3%	1.2%
Professional activities	138.8	199.9	61.1	6.3%	215.6	212.3	1.5%	1.2%
Administrative & support	110.6	105.7	-4.9	-0.8%	113.1	109.1	1.4%	0.6%
Public admin (PAD)	114.1	147.5	33.4	4.4%	153.8	152.2	0.8%	0.6%
Education	184.3	247.0	62.7	5.0%	256.9	267.0	0.8%	1.6%
Health	293.2	384.9	91.7	4.6%	400.0	407.5	0.8%	1.1%
Arts, entertainment & other services	119.2	122.2	3.0	0.4%	127.3	127.6	0.8%	0.9%
Not stated	6.4	8.0	1.6	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,335.9	2,817.5	481.6	3.2%	2,981.0	2,981.0	1.1%	1.1%

Source: SLMRU Sectoral Model (using a combination of CSO Labour Force Survey and National Accounts data for historical employment)

Across both scenarios, the top two sectors in terms of absolute employment growth projected for the period 2025-2030 were industry and construction (Figure 2.2). The wholesale & retail sector had the third highest projected employment growth in the Baseline Scenario, while the health & welfare sector had the third highest projected growth in the Productivity Adjusted Scenario.

Figure 2.2: Projected sectoral employment change by sector, 2025-2030



Source: SLMRU Sectoral Model (using a combination of CSO Labour Force Survey and National Accounts data for historical employment)



3.

Occupational Employment Projections



Following stakeholder engagement to test the feasibility of the two sectoral projections and to revise accordingly, the next step in the process was to apply these to occupational data to produce occupational employment growth up to 2030. The methodology to achieve this and the subsequent results are detailed in this section.

3.1 Methodology

Using the CSO Research Microdata Files for the Labour Force Survey, historical employment share trends for the 100 occupations (used in the National Skills Bulletin and detailed in Appendix B) across the 16 broad sectors (detailed above) were calculated for the historical period 2019-2025. To project these share trends out to 2030, the following methodology was applied:

- for occupations that made up at least 5% of employment in each sector, linear projections were applied for the projection period
- for occupations below the 5% threshold, historical average shares were projected forward as linear projections for these occupational groupings tended to produce erratic results.

For the most part, this methodology was used based on the full historical period, 2019-2025. However, there were some circumstances where more recent trends provided a more suitable basis (e.g. for those occupations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic), with adjustments made accordingly. The projected occupational shares were then applied to the Productivity Adjusted Scenario sectoral projections to produce employment projections at occupational level. The Productivity Adjusted Scenario was selected over the Baseline Scenario as this was the scenario that was modified as a result of productivity assumptions and stakeholder engagements and was deemed the best fit for future projections.

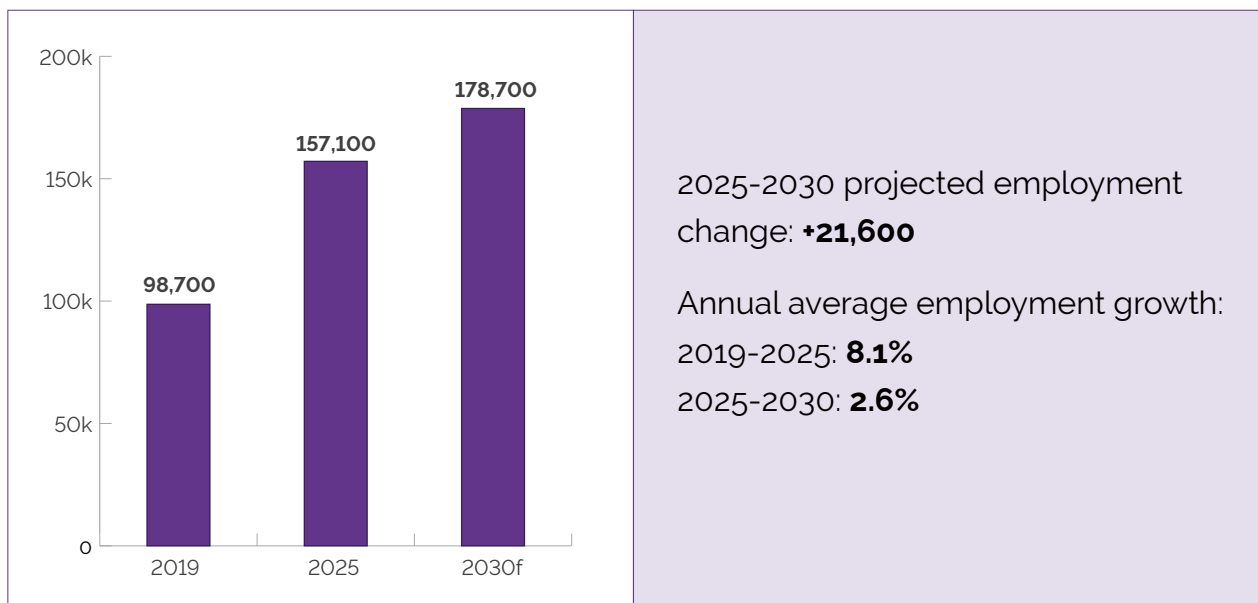
For reporting purposes here, the detailed occupations have been aggregated to the 16 broad occupational groups detailed in Appendix B. The upcoming National Skills Bulletin 2026 will provide information on employment projections at detailed occupational level.

3.2 Results

The following are the employment projection results to 2030 across the 16 occupational groups detailed in the National Skills Bulletin. The sectors driving the projected employment change and the key detailed occupations in terms of growth are outlined as appropriate.

3.2.1 Science & engineering

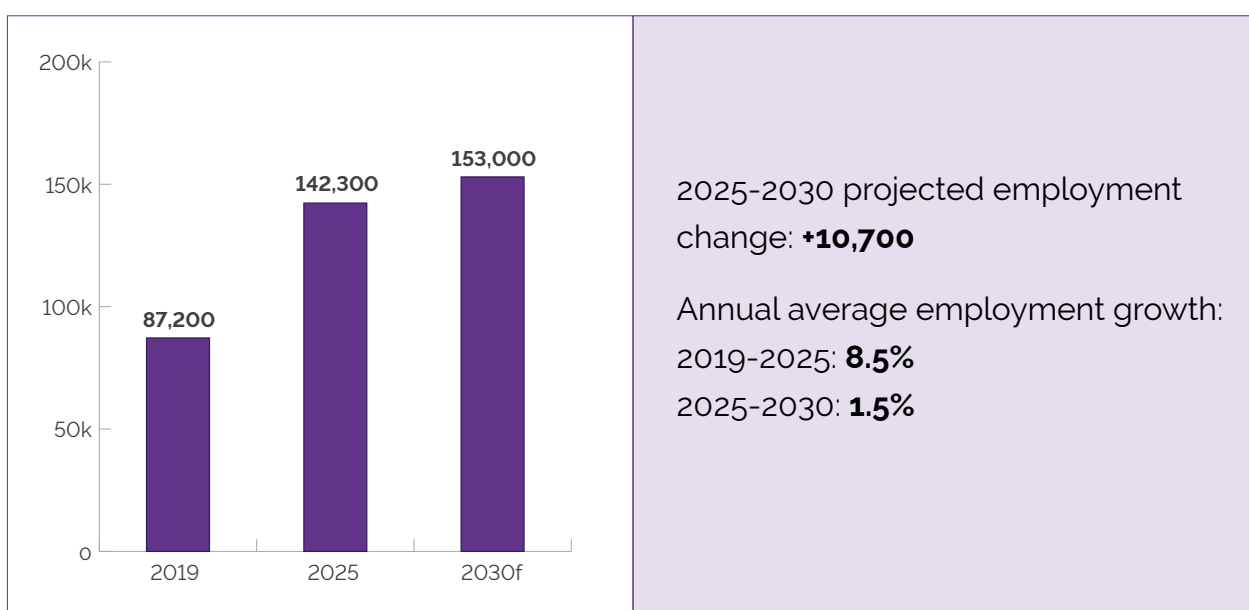
Science & engineering occupations saw significant employment growth between 2019-2025. Employment growth is expected to continue to 2030, with above average growth for these occupations. This growth is projected to be driven primarily by the foreign-owned manufacturing sector. Within the occupations in this group, the strongest growth is projected for production managers.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.2 ICT

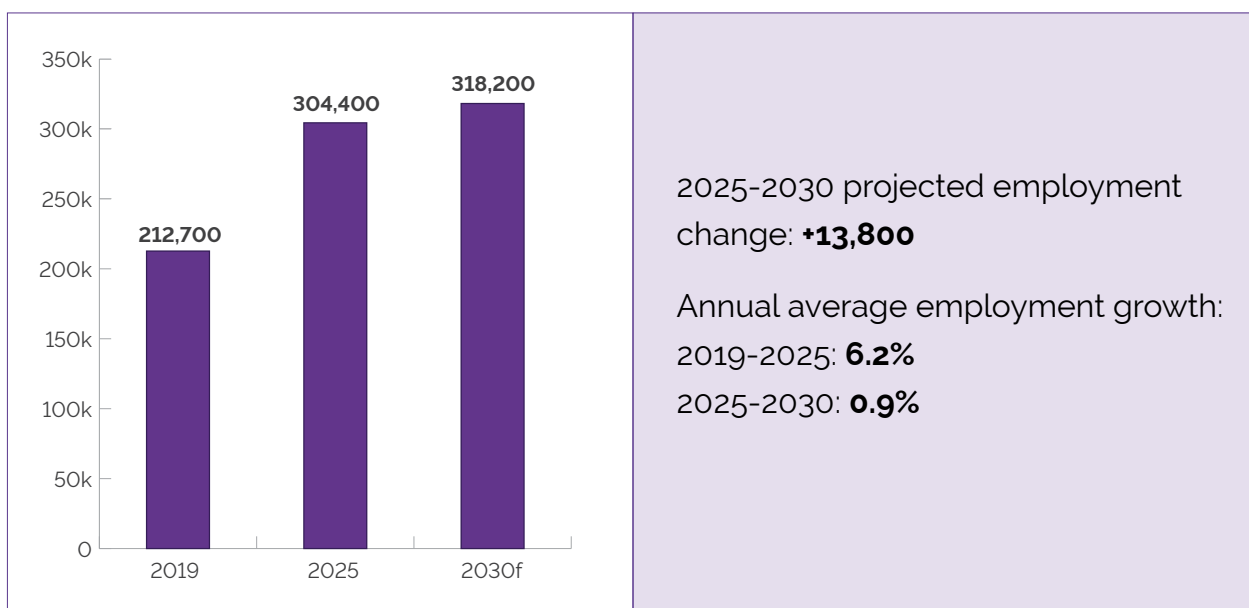
This occupational group saw significant employment growth during the COVID-19 pandemic with an additional 34,000 persons employed between 2020-2021 alone. Employment growth has slowed since, with an annual average growth of approximately 5,000 persons between 2022 and 2025. Although employment growth over the forecast period remains above average, it is below that seen in the most recent years. The projected employment growth for these roles is primarily related to activity in the ICT sector. At an occupational level, the growth is expected to be driven mainly by ICT specialists and project managers with little or no overall growth for programmers and technicians.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.3 Business & financial

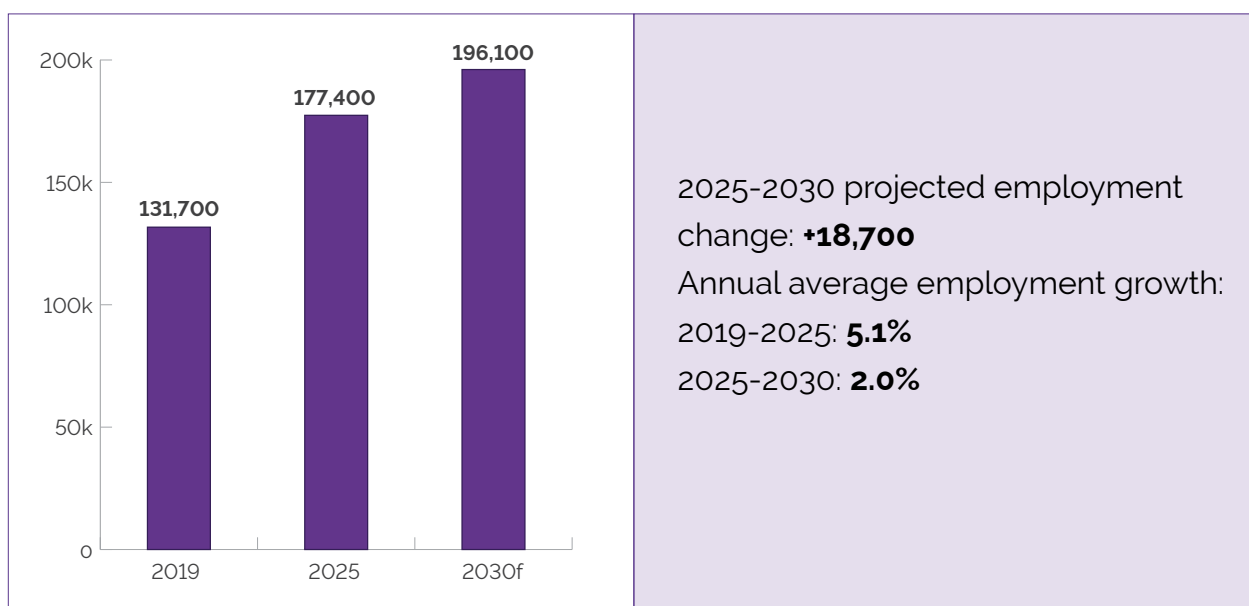
The business and financial occupational group is one of the larger groups with accountants and financial administrators accounting for a significant share of total employment. Between 2019 and 2025, employment grew strongly (6.2%) although, at 0.9%, employment growth to 2030 over the forecast period is projected to be below average. Employment in this occupational group is concentrated in the financial and professional services (e.g. accountants) sectors, with these two sectors expected to primarily drive growth in these roles. Strong growth in some occupations (e.g. financial analysts) is projected to be offset by declines in financial administrative roles which have been highlighted as particularly vulnerable to both AI and digital technology advancements.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.4 Healthcare

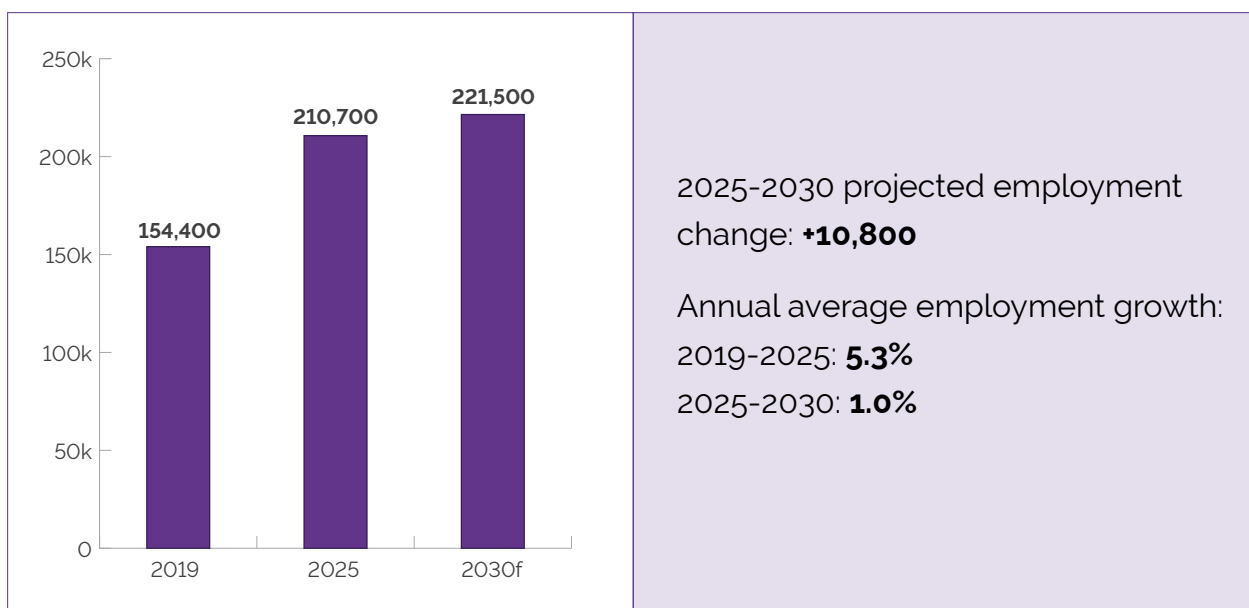
Employment in healthcare occupations grew strongly between 2019 and 2025, with an additional 45,700 persons employed. Our ageing population will require a further employment growth in these occupations in the coming years although productivity gains will also be needed to alleviate the increased demand for skills in this area. Employment is projected to have an above average growth rate to 2030, with nurses and medical practitioners in particular expected to drive this growth.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.5 Education

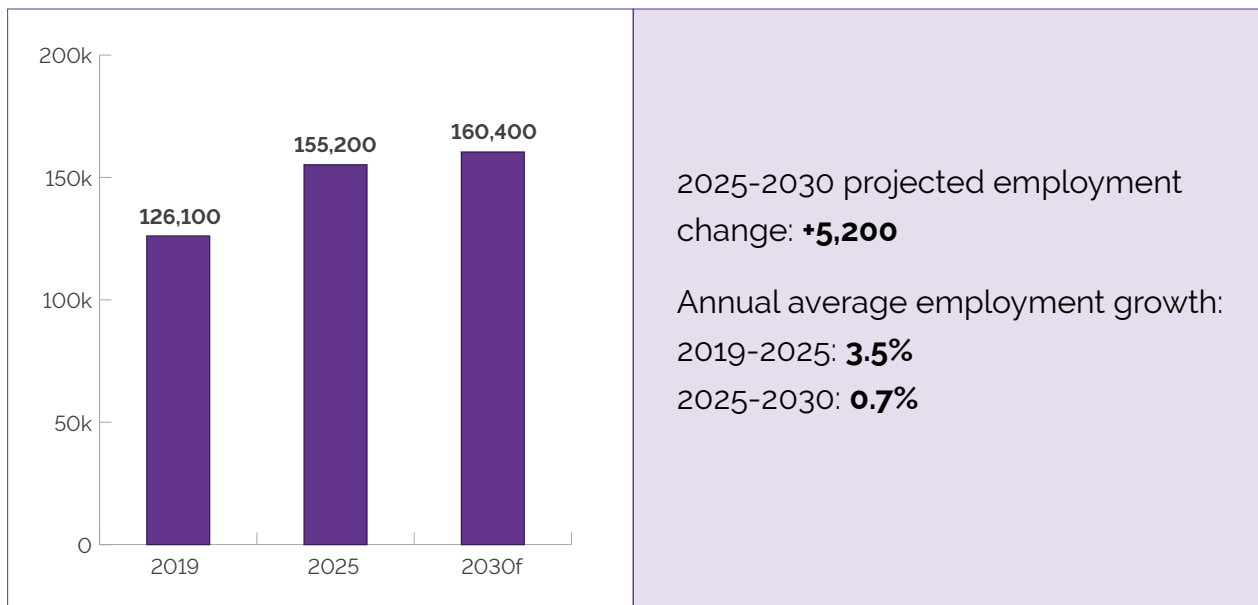
Employment grew strongly for education occupations over the period 2019-2025, with a particularly strong growth between 2024 and 2025 (primarily related to primary school teachers). More modest growth is projected to 2030 although almost on a par with the national average. Continued demand for educational support roles along with secondary teachers and higher/further education will be offset somewhat by a slowdown in demand for primary school teachers due to a projected fall in enrolment numbers for this age cohort.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.6 Social & care

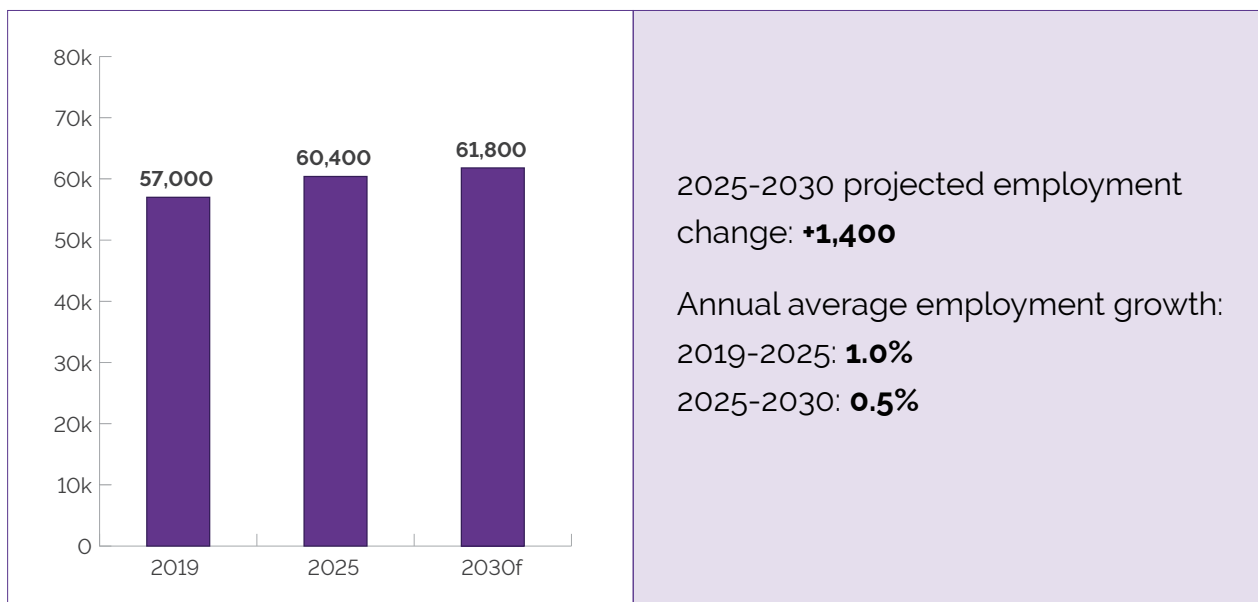
Employment growth for social and care occupations between 2019 and 2025 was on a par with the national average, with an additional 29,000 persons employed. Future growth to 2030 is projected to be more modest, at 0.7% on average annually, representing an additional 5,200 persons. Care workers represent the largest occupation in this group; although demand for caring roles is high, attractiveness of the job may be constraining capacity to expand in these occupations.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.7 Legal & security

This occupational group has seen little employment growth in recent years with projected growth expected to be below average. Employment declines are projected for security-related roles, with minor gains for other protective services (which includes army, prison services).

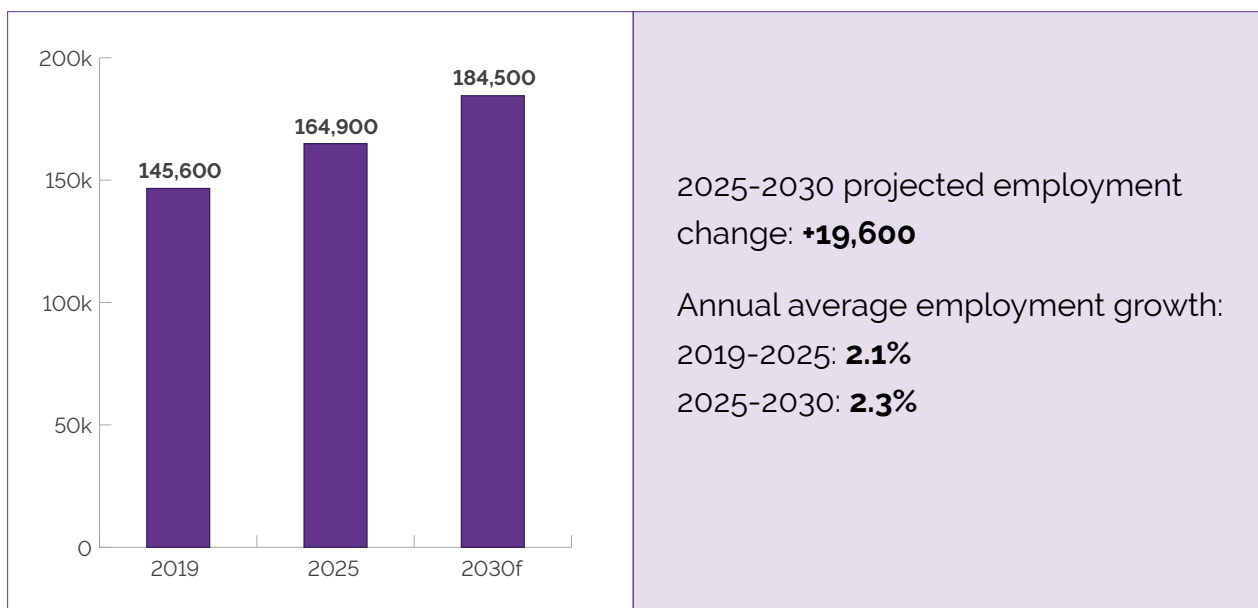


Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.8 Construction

With 19,300 additional persons employed between 2019 and 2025, annual average employment growth in this occupational group was below average. The demand for housing and key infrastructure, however, is leading to increased demand for these skills and as such, construction occupations are projected to have the second largest employment growth (both relative and absolute) after science and engineering over the period to 2030. While most of the growth is projected to be driven by the construction sector, construction occupations employed in professional services (e.g. architects and civil engineers) are also projected to grow. In terms of detailed occupations, strong growth is projected for carpenters, other construction trades, civil engineers, and plumbers.

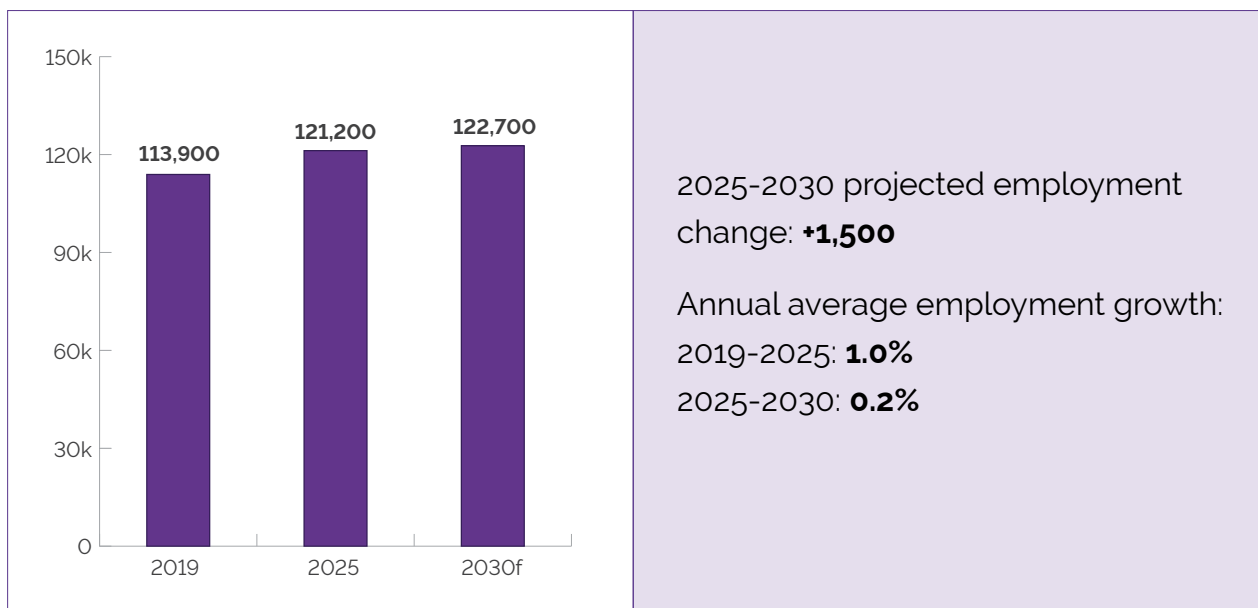
A further scenario of increased investment in the construction sector is detailed in Section 4.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.9 Other craft

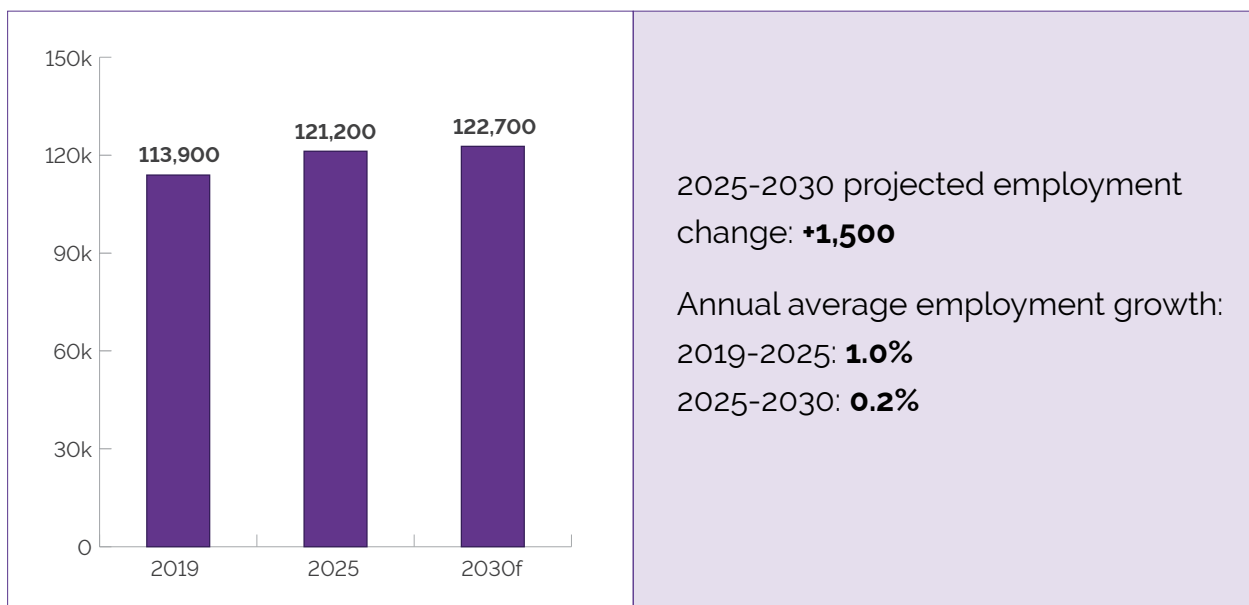
While annual average employment growth between 2019-2025 was below average (with an additional 18,000 persons employed), employment growth is projected to be above average annually to 2030 (1.8%). Employment in these occupations is spread across a number of sectors, mainly industry, construction and wholesale/retail. Growth is projected to be driven primarily by increased demand in the construction sector but increased demand is also expected for these occupations in industry and wholesale/retail. At a detailed occupational level, the largest employment growth is projected for electrical/electronic trades followed by welders; both of these occupations are key for both construction and the green agenda.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.10 Agriculture & animal care

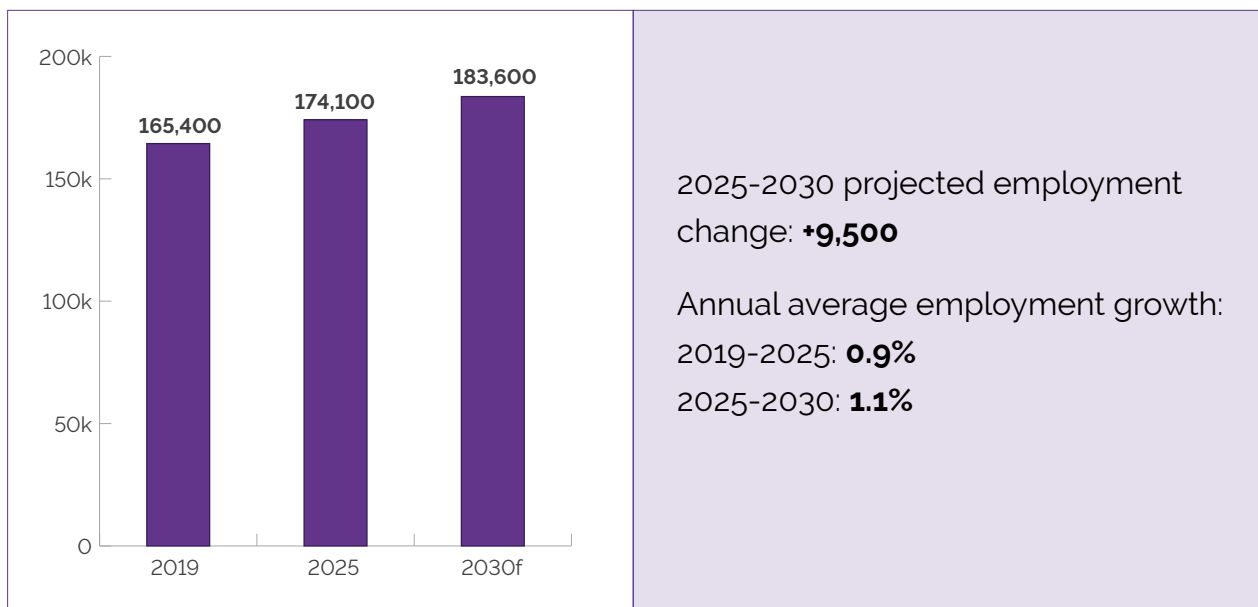
Employment in the agriculture and animal care occupational group has seen little growth in recent years with very little projected growth by 2030. A decline in the number of farmers is expected to be offset somewhat by increases in employment in elementary agricultural occupations.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.11 Hospitality

Overall employment growth in hospitality occupations was small between 2019 and 2025, but this masks the dip and subsequent recovery as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Future growth is projected to be on a par with the national average. A projected decline in the number of waiters employed will be offset somewhat by increases for chefs and kitchen assistants. Growth in employment in hospitality occupations will be dependent on sustained tourism, consumer sentiment and the availability of skilled labour.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.12 Arts, sports & tourism

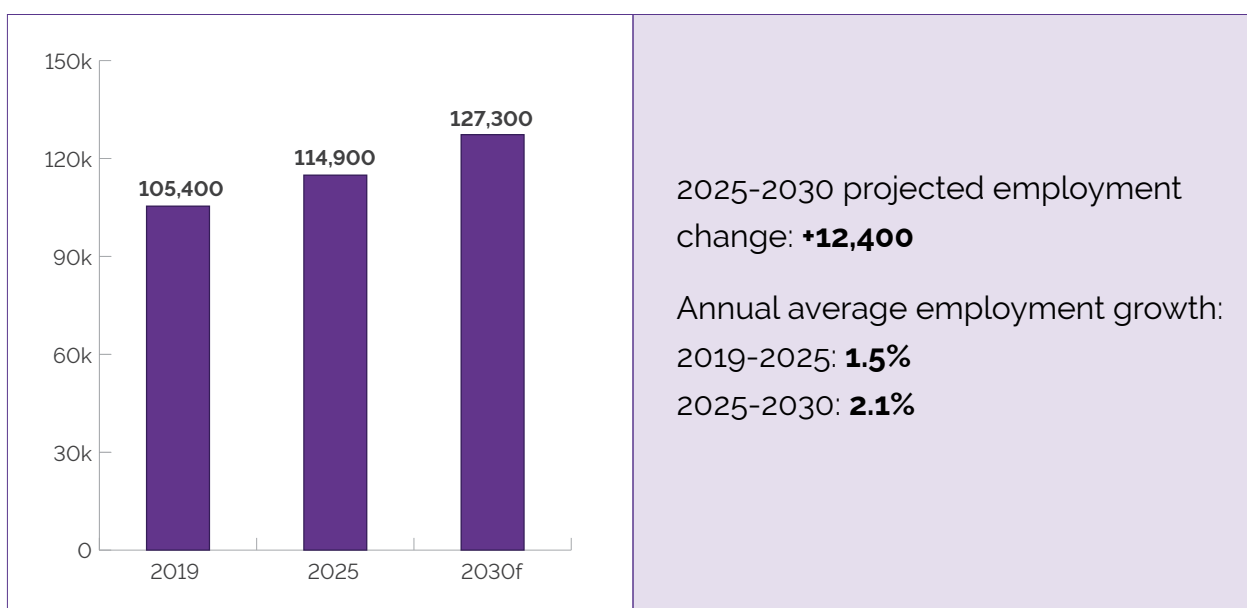
Only modest employment growth occurred between 2019 and 2025 for the arts, sports and tourism occupational group, with this pattern projected to continue over the period 2025-2030. While limited growth is expected within the arts, entertainment and other services sector (the largest sector of employment for this group), they are expected to be offset by small declines in employment relating to the ICT sector. At detailed occupational level, leisure and travel occupations are projected to see some growth in employment (having grown strongly in 2025) but declines are expected in hairdressing and artistic, literature, and media associate professionals (e.g. graphic designers).



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.13 Transport & logistics

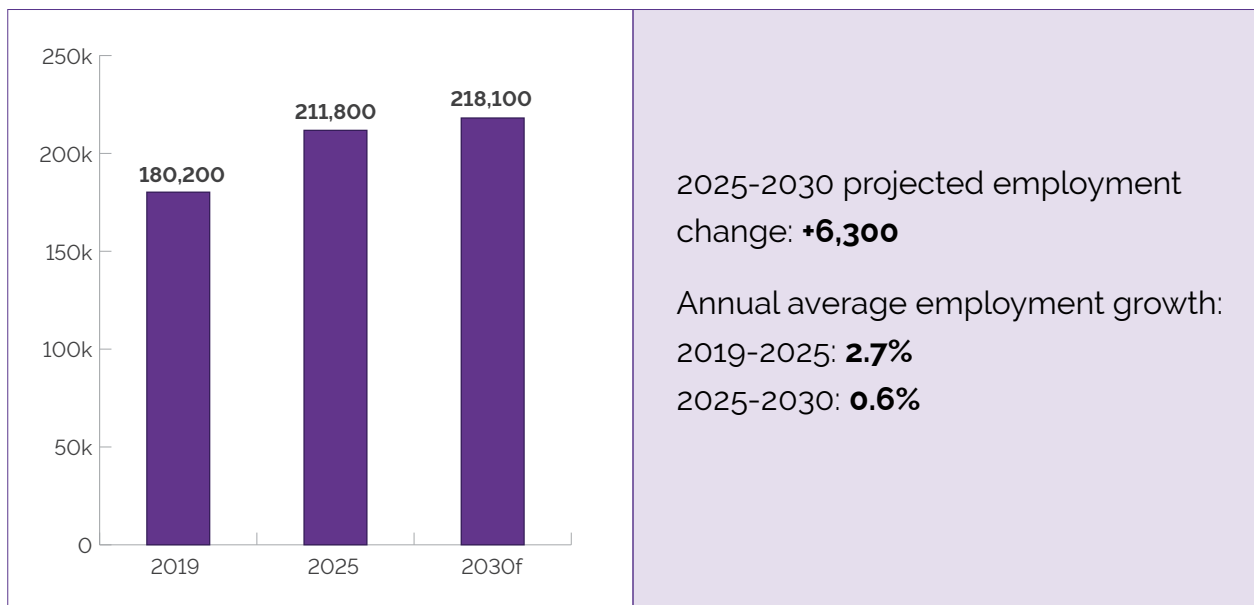
Employment growth for transport and logistics occupations was below average between 2019 and 2025, with an additional 9,500 persons employed. However, annual average employment growth to 2030 is projected to be above average, resulting in an additional 12,400 persons. Although growth is projected to be primarily driven by the transport sector, some growth will be due to activity in the wholesale/retail sector. Growth is projected for drivers and managers in transport and logistics in particular.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.14 Administrative & secretarial

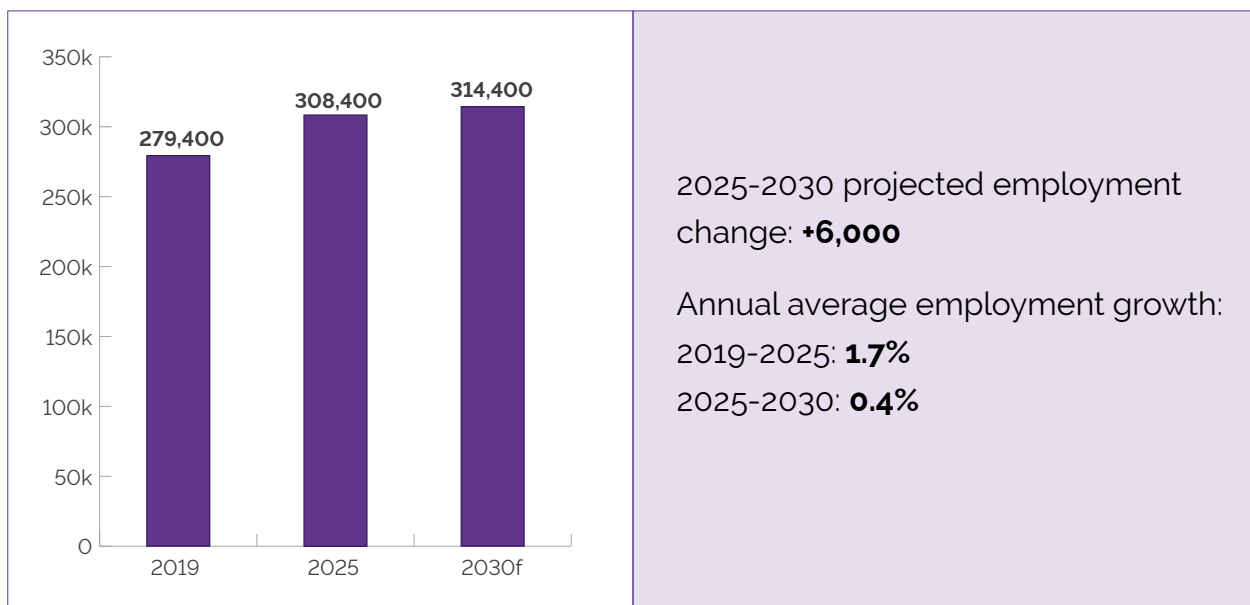
Employment growth in this occupational group was slightly below average between 2019 and 2025 despite strong growth in government administrative and other administrators. Employment in these occupations is spread across most sectors; while some sectors may experience declines in employment over the forecast period, others are expected to see some small gains (e.g. education and professional services). The extent to which AI and digital transformations impact on employment growth in these occupations is as yet unknown but is likely to become evident over the forecast period. Other administrators are the largest occupation in this group; they are employed across sectors and are forecast to see the largest absolute growth.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.15 Sales, marketing & customer services

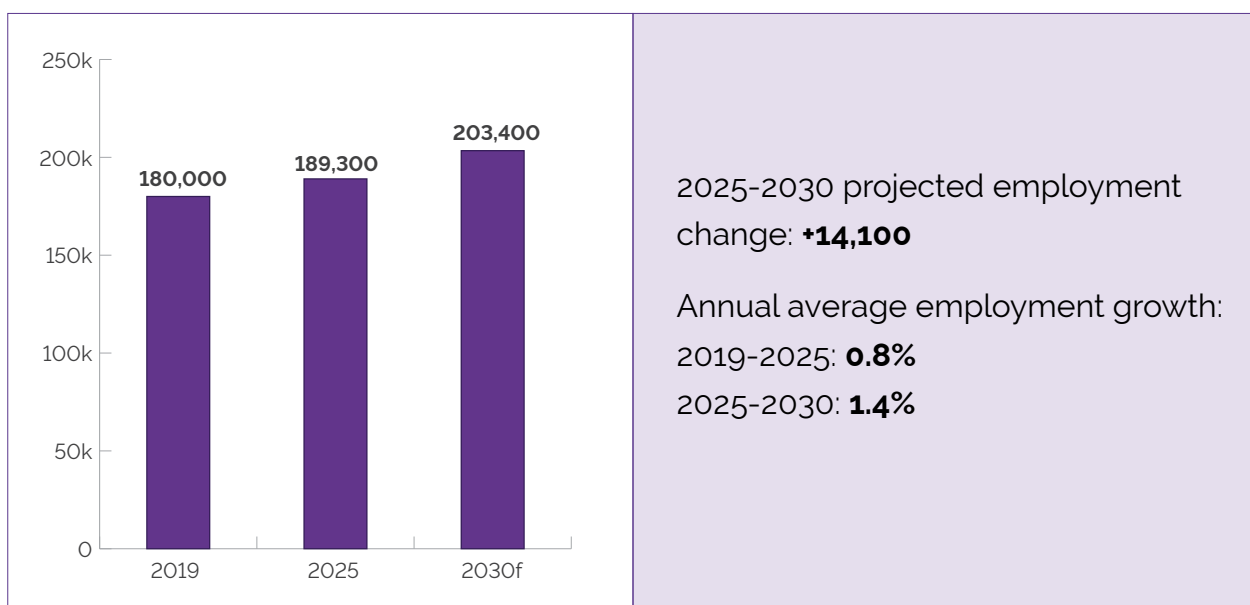
Annual average employment growth was below average over the period 2019 to 2025, with an additional 29,000 persons employed (mostly related to high skilled roles such as sales/marketing managers and directors and business sales executives). Employment growth is expected to continue to be below average over the forecast period, at 0.4%. The wholesale/retail sector is by far the largest employer for this occupational group with little growth projected for occupations directly employed in this sector. However, employment growth is projected for sales-related roles in finance, ICT and professional services. While some declines are expected at a detailed occupational level (e.g. customer service roles due to the continued adoption of AI), some gains are forecast (e.g. sales assistants and sales related occupations).



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

3.2.16 Operatives & elementary

Between 2019 and 2025, employment for operatives and elementary occupations grew by 9,300 persons (or 0.8% on average annually). A further increase in employment of 14,100 persons is projected by 2030, resulting in just over 200,000 persons employed in this occupational group. Employment in these occupations is spread across a number of sectors, although the domestic industrial sector is projected to be a key driver of growth in this occupational group. Food operatives represent the largest projected growth occupation, followed by cleaning roles.



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends



4.

Construction Scenario

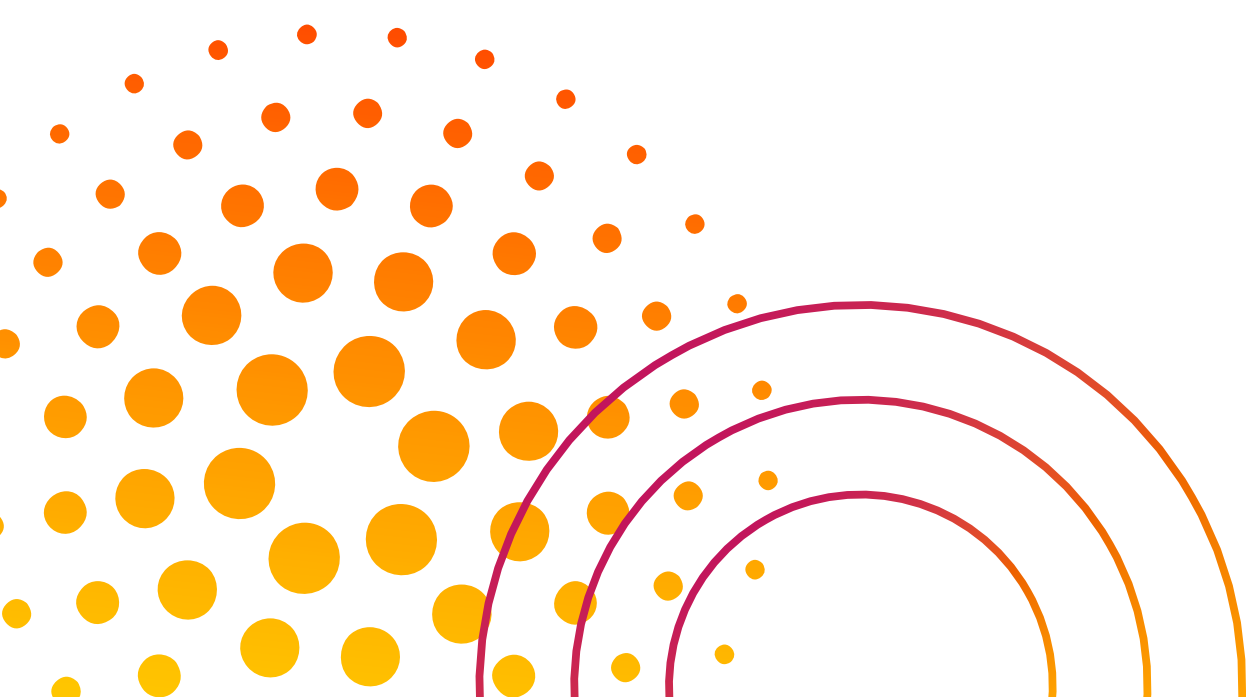
The construction sector is a key component of the Irish economy, with increased investment likely to be required in the coming years to address demand relating to housing, infrastructure and climate-related activities. As such, in addition to the analysis already presented, a scenario with a 10% increase in modified domestic demand in the construction sector across the forecast period to 2030 was applied.

As shown in Table 4.1 below, this additional investment in the construction sector is projected to result in an additional 45,400 persons employed over the period 2025-2030, 16,900 more persons compared to the Productivity Adjusted Scenario, and represents an annual average employment growth of 4.5% over the forecast period.

Table 4.1: Employment (and average annual growth) in the construction sector, 2025 and 2030 (projected) across scenarios

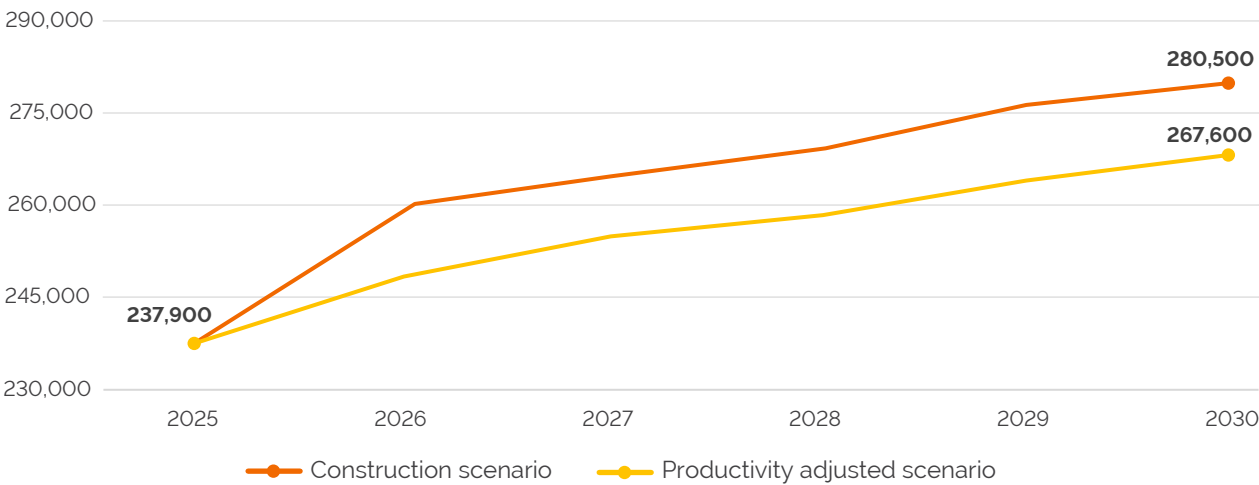
	2025	2030f	Annual average growth (2025-2030)
Baseline scenario	184,400	207,900	2.4%
Productivity Adjusted scenario		212,900	2.9%
Construction scenario		229,800	4.5%

Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends



At an occupational level, employment projections for construction-related occupations,¹⁴ are shown in Figure 4.1 below. The additional investment would result in a further requirement of 12,900 persons when compared to the Productivity Adjusted Scenario. To note, this figure is smaller than the sectoral change as it excludes support staff (e.g. admin) and those who are not specifically employed in construction activities (e.g. forklift drivers who are classified within transport occupations).

Figure 4.1: Employment projections for construction-related occupations, Productivity Adjusted Scenario and Construction Scenario, 2025-2030f



Source: SLMRU-generated projections using CSO LFS data for historical trends

¹⁴ This combines construction occupations detailed in Section 3.2.8 with electricians and welders (which are categorised in the Other Crafts occupational group but are integral to construction activity in Ireland)

Appendix A: Sectoral breakdown

Agriculture

Agriculture, forestry & fishing

Industry

Foreign owned

Coke & refined petroleum & other chemicals

Pharmaceuticals

Computer, optical & electronic equipment

Manufacturing not elsewhere classified

Domestic

Food, drink & tobacco

Textiles, clothing & leather

Wood & wood products, except furniture

Paper and printing

Rubber, plastic products & other non-metallic mineral products

Basic metals & metal products

Electrical equipment

Other machinery & equipment

Motor vehicles & other transport equipment

Other

Mining & quarrying

Repair & installation

Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning

Water supply

Construction

Construction

Wholesale & retail trade

Wholesale & retail trade

Transport & storage

Land transport

Water transport

Air transport, warehousing & postal services

Accommodation & food

Accommodation & food service activities

ICT

Media, computer programming, information services

Telecommunications

Financial activities

Financial & insurance activities

Real estate activities

Professional activities

Legal, account & consulting services

Architectural & engineering

R&D

Advertising & market research; other professional nec

Administrative & support

Administrative & support service activities

Public administration & defence

Public administration & defence service activities

Education

Education

Health & welfare

Health & welfare

Arts, entertainment & other services

Arts, entertainment & recreation

Other service activities

Appendix B: Occupational breakdown

Science & engineering

Chemical, biological & physical scientists

Production, design & Quality Control (QC) engineers

Other engineering professionals

Science & engineering technicians

Production managers in manufacturing, mining & energy

Environmental/conservation specialists

Health & safety officers

ICT

ICT specialist & project managers

Programmers & software developers

ICT professionals not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.)

IT technicians

Business & financial

Accountants & tax experts

Management consultants, business analysts & project managers

Actuaries, economists & statisticians; other business professionals

Financial analysts & insurance underwriters

Other business associate professionals

Financial accounts managers

Financial managers & directors

Financial administrative occupations

HR managers & officers

Healthcare

Nurses & midwives

Medical practitioners

Therapy professionals

Other healthcare professionals

Health associate professionals

Education

Higher & further education teaching professionals

Secondary teachers

Primary & nursery teachers

Teaching & other educational professionals

Educational support assistants

Trainers & instructors, career guidance

Social & care

Welfare & housing associate professionals

Childminders, etc.

Other caring services

Social workers & welfare professionals

Care workers, home carers, etc.

Legal & security

Barristers, judges, solicitors & related professionals

Police officers

Other protective service occupations

Security guards

Construction

Civil engineers & construction project managers

Architects & town planners, architectural technologists & surveyors

Construction related technicians

Bricklayers & plasterers

Plumbers

Carpenters & joiners

Painters & decorators

Other construction trades

Construction operatives & elementary

Other craft n.e.c.

Welders & fabricators

Other metal-related trades

Vehicle trades

Electrical & electronic trades, etc.

Other skilled trades

Butchers, fishmongers, bakers, etc.

Agriculture & animal care

Managers in horticulture, agriculture & fishing

Farmers

Horticultural, agricultural & fishing trades n.e.c.

Elementary agriculture

Animal carers

Hospitality

Hospitality managers

Chefs & cooks

Catering & bar managers

Kitchen & catering assistants

Waiters & waitresses

Bar staff

Housekeepers, etc.

Arts, sports & tourism

Media professionals & librarians

Artistic, literary & media associate professionals

Sports & fitness occupations

Leisure & travel service occupations

Hairdressers & beauticians, etc.

Transport & logistics

Managers, directors in transport & logistics

Stock control, transport & distribution administrative occupations

Large goods vehicle drivers

Mobile machine drivers & operatives

Taxi and cab drivers & chauffeurs

Other drivers & transport operatives

Aircraft pilots, ship officers, air traffic controllers

Administrative & secretarial

Government administrative

Other administrators

Office managers & supervisors

Personal assistants (PAs) & other secretaries, etc.

Receptionists

Elementary administrative

Sales, marketing & customer service

Advertising, marketing & sales directors

Managers, directors in retail & wholesale

Business sales executives

Sales accounts & business development managers

Other sales & marketing associate professionals

Sales assistants

Sales related occupations n.e.c.

Customer service occupations

Operatives & elementary n.e.c.

Food, drink & tobacco

Chemical & related process

Other process operatives & process plant occupations

Plant & machine

Assemblers & routine operatives

Cleaning

Sales, storage & services

Other occupations n.e.c.

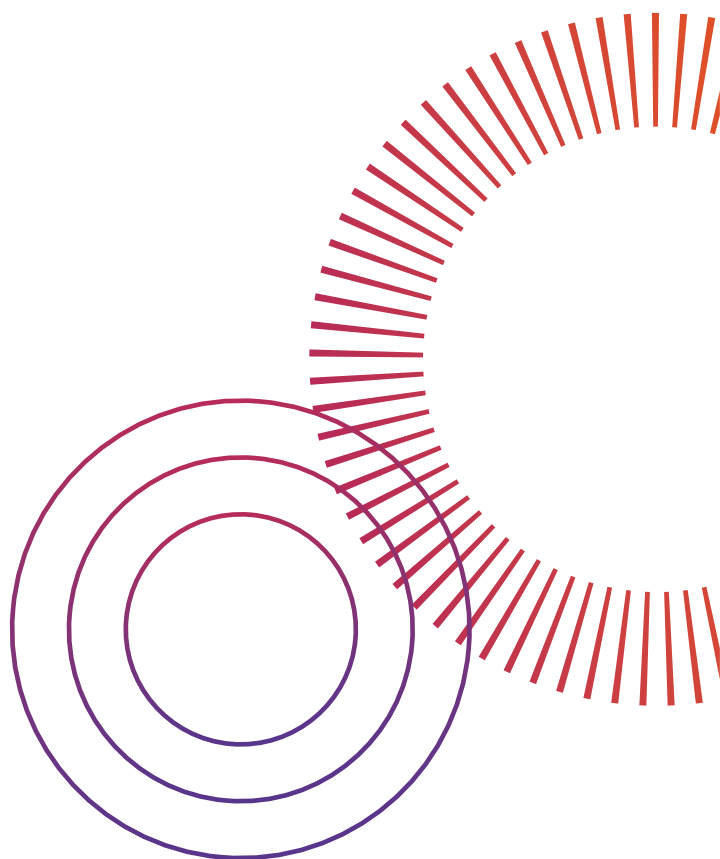
Functional managers & directors

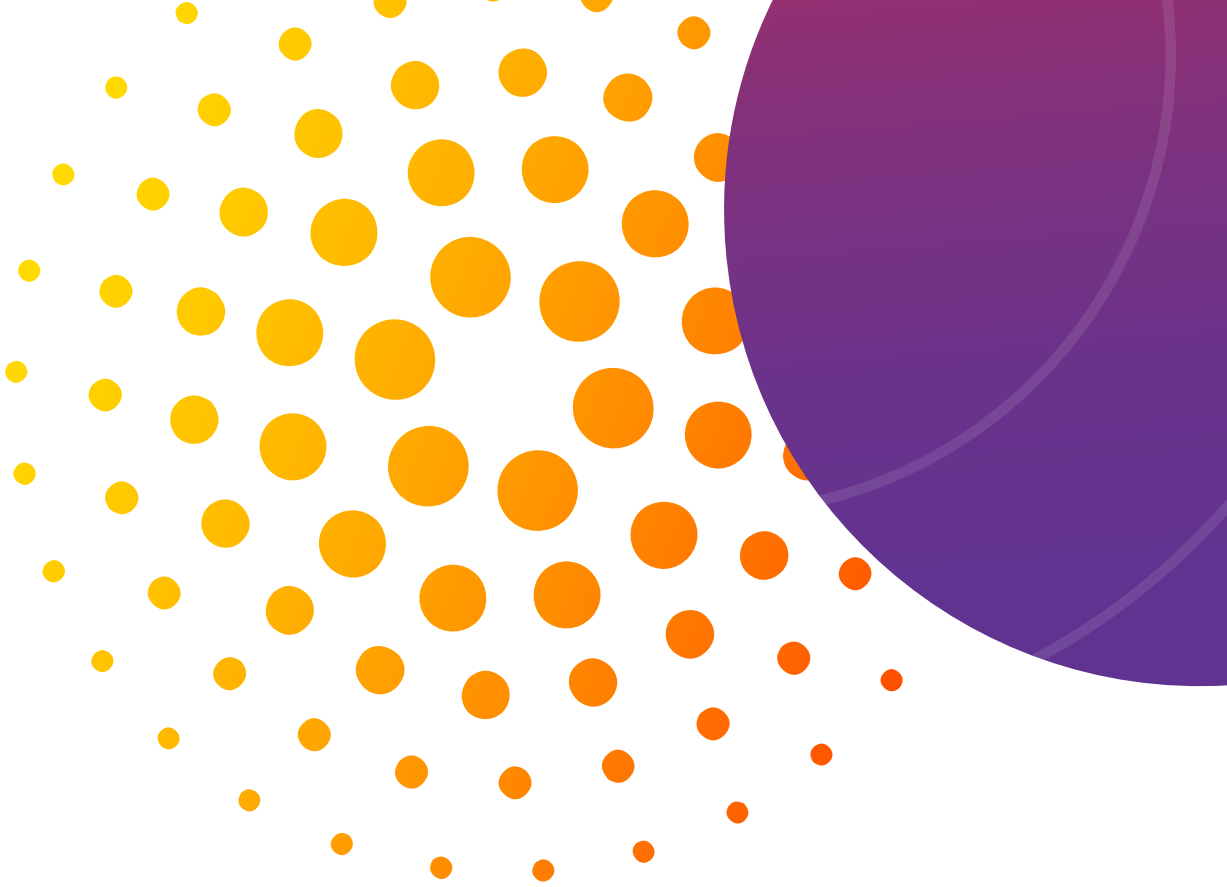
Managers & proprietors in other services

Other public services associate professionals

Regulations inspectors

Caretakers





Block 1,
Castleforbes House
Castleforbes Road,
Dublin 1
D01 A8N0
Ireland

T: +353 (01) 533 2500

E: info@solas.ie

www.solas.ie



SOLAS An tSeirbhís Oideachais
Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna
Further Education and
Training Authority