

Key Labour Market Indicators ¹ Q2 2025	Mid-East	State
Population (0+ years)	786,500	5,458,200
Population by education level (25-64 years)		
FET (NFQ 4-6)	15%	13%
Third level	55%	57%
Working age population (15-64 years)	516,900	3,597,400
Labour force participation rate (15 years +)	67.8%	66.4%
Males	73.1%	71.6%
Females	62.6%	61.3%
Employment (15 years +)	404,700	2,818,100
% Total national employment	14%	100%
Employment growth (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	-0.2%	2.3%
Males	-0.9%	3.0%
Females	0.6%	1.5%
Employment change (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	-900	63,900
Males	-2,000	43,700
Females	1,100	20,200
Unemployment rate	5.3%	4.8%
Share of workforce working from home (sometimes or usually)	37.3%	35.9%

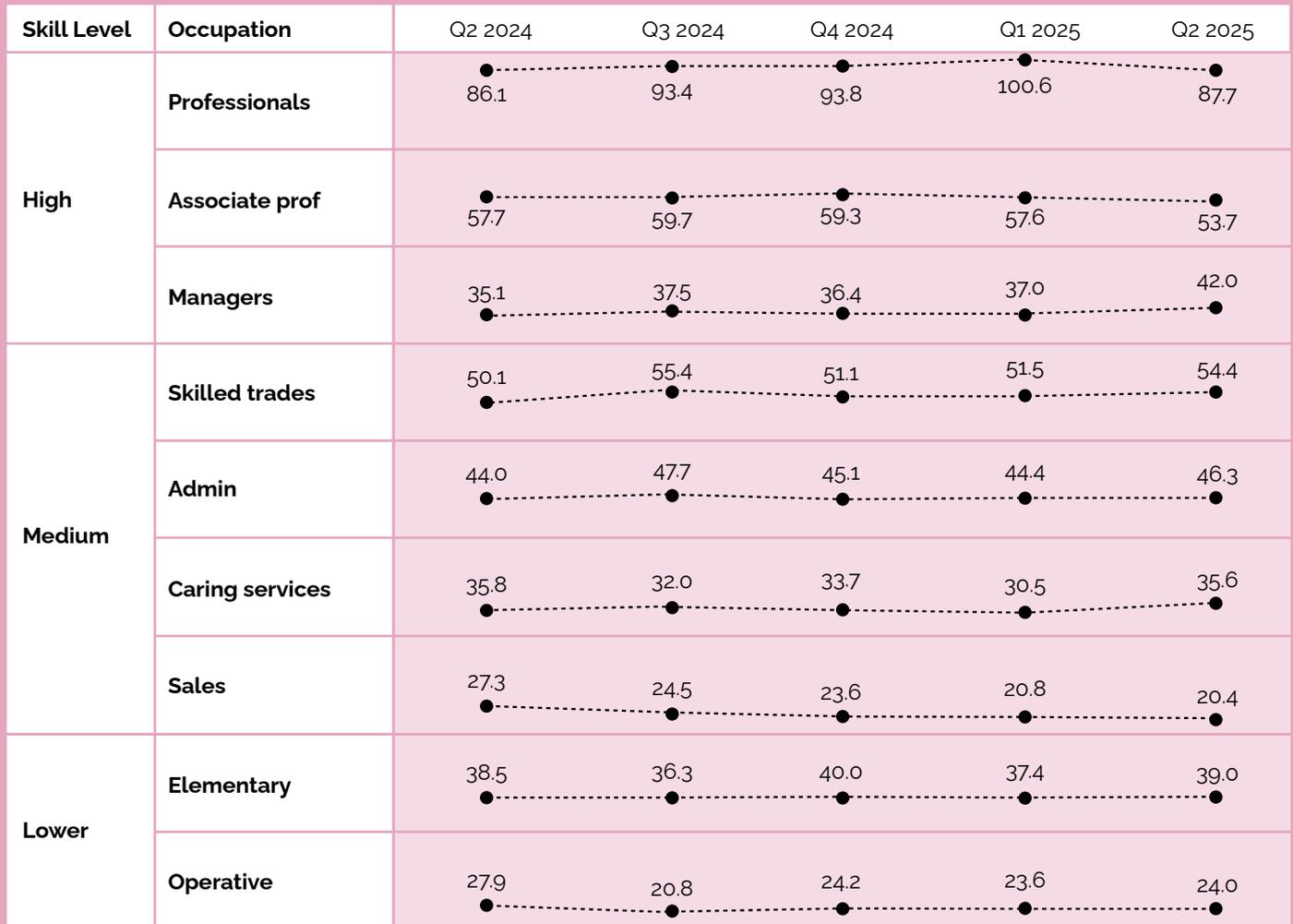
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

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 Mid-East Region

Nearly one half (45%) of employment in the Mid-East region in Q2 2025 was in high skilled occupations; a further two fifths (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	Mid-East		State
		Change	% Change	% Change
High	Managers	6,900	20%	4%
	Professionals	1,600	2%	5%
	Assoc. prof	-4,000	-7%	-2%
	Total	4,500	2.5%	3%
Medium	Admin	2,300	5%	2%
	Caring services	-200	-1%	3%
	Skilled trades	4,300	9%	4%
	Sales	-6,900	-25%	1%
	Total	-500	0%	3%
Lower	Operative	-3,900	-14%	1%
	Elementary	500	1%	1%
	Total	-3,400	-5%	1%

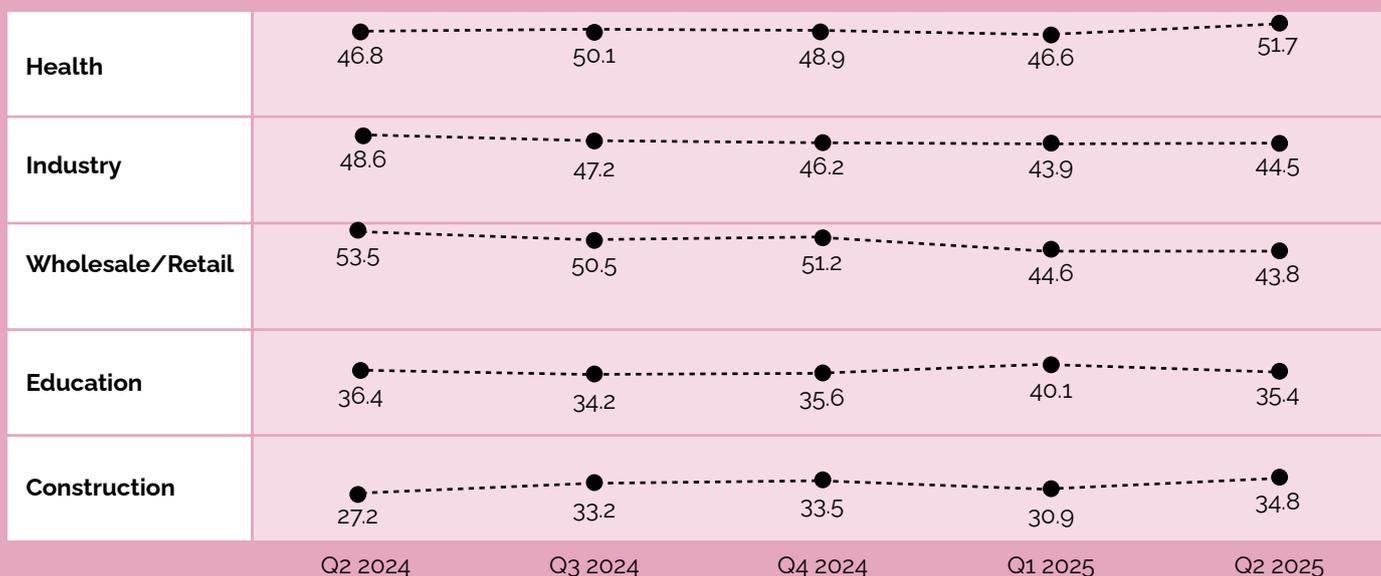
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data; excludes not stated

- The share of regional employment in high skilled occupations was below the national average (46%). At 183,400 persons in Q2 2025, **employment in high skilled occupations was 3% higher** than in Q2 2024 (4,500 extra employed).
- The share in **medium skilled occupations** was higher than the national average (37%).
- Of the 54,400 in skilled trades occupations, 7,600 were farmers. The 9% growth in **skilled trades** employment in the year to Q2 2025 was almost evenly distributed between farmers (+2,200) and other skilled trades (+2,100).
- Persons employed in **lower skilled occupations** accounted for 16% of total employment (63,000 workers) in Q2 2025.

Sectoral Employment in the Mid-East Region

Over half (52%) of employment in the Mid-East region in Q2 2025 was in the top five sectors, largely unchanged from Q2 2024.

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	Mid-East		State	
		%		%
Health	4,900	10%		4%
Industry	-4,100	-8%		2%
Wholesale & retail	-9,700	-18%		2%
Education	-1,000	-3%		4%
Construction	7,600	28%		18%

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

Outside the Top 5 Sectors

The largest absolute increase was for

- ▲ Finance (3,200)
- ▲ Agriculture (2,300)
- ▲ ICT (1,600)
- ▲ Transport (1,600)

The largest absolute falls were for

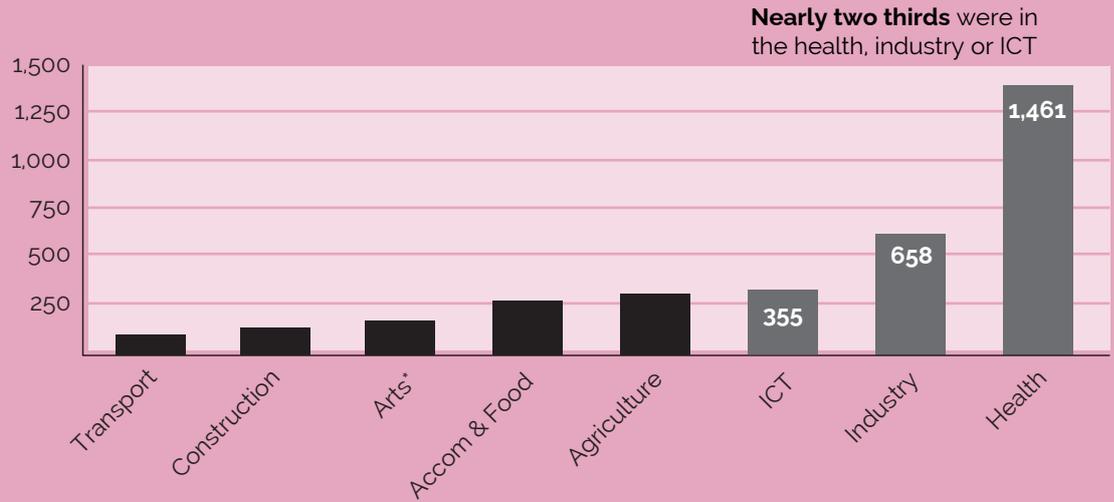
- ▼ Accom/food (-4,600)
- ▼ Admin/support (-2,200)
- ▼ Public admin/defence (-1,700)

Employment Permits in the Mid-East Region

At
3,839

(or 11% of the total) in 2024, the Mid-East had the second highest number of new employment permits issued, after Dublin.

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



Nearly two thirds were in the health, industry or ICT

*Arts comprises arts, entertainment and recreation and other services

The top 5 occupations* accounted for 50% of new permits (Mid-East 2024)



830
Healthcare assistants & care workers



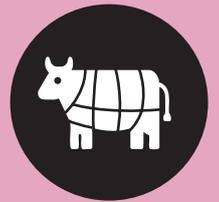
439
Nurses



237
ICT



227
Chefs



183
Meat processing operatives

Source: DETE

*Other job titles included HGV drivers, engineers (including software), work riders, and bus/coach drivers.

Companies with recent job announcements in the region (2024)

Numbers of jobs announced	
Tesco	400
MSD	150
Grace Healthcare	100
Suretank	80
SD Worx	40
HRI	20



IDA job creation pipeline in the Mid-East Region

1,073

jobs announced in 2024*, representing 8% of the total; most were for admin/support services, high-tech manufacturing, and professional services (engineering, testing).

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

Occupation	Jobs announced
Process operatives (inc supervisors)	421
Professionals, of which	307
Other engineers & scientists (QA/QC research)	120
Engineers (inc process/production)	99
IT professionals	63
Business	25
Sales (customer services)	94
Associate professionals, of which	84
Business (e.g. procurement, advertising, /mkting)	30
Other business (e.g. regulatory, HR, analytics)	21
Engineering & IT technicians	33
Skilled trades (mostly maintenance or fabrication)	67
Managers	40
Admin & secretarial	34
Elementary (mostly warehousing)	26
Total	1,073

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

Unemployment* in the Mid-East Region

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



Numbers unemployed
Q2 2025

22,500

Change from Q2 2024

7,700
unemployed
persons

UE rate Q2 2025

5.3%

Change in UE rate
from Q2 2024

1.7 percentage
points

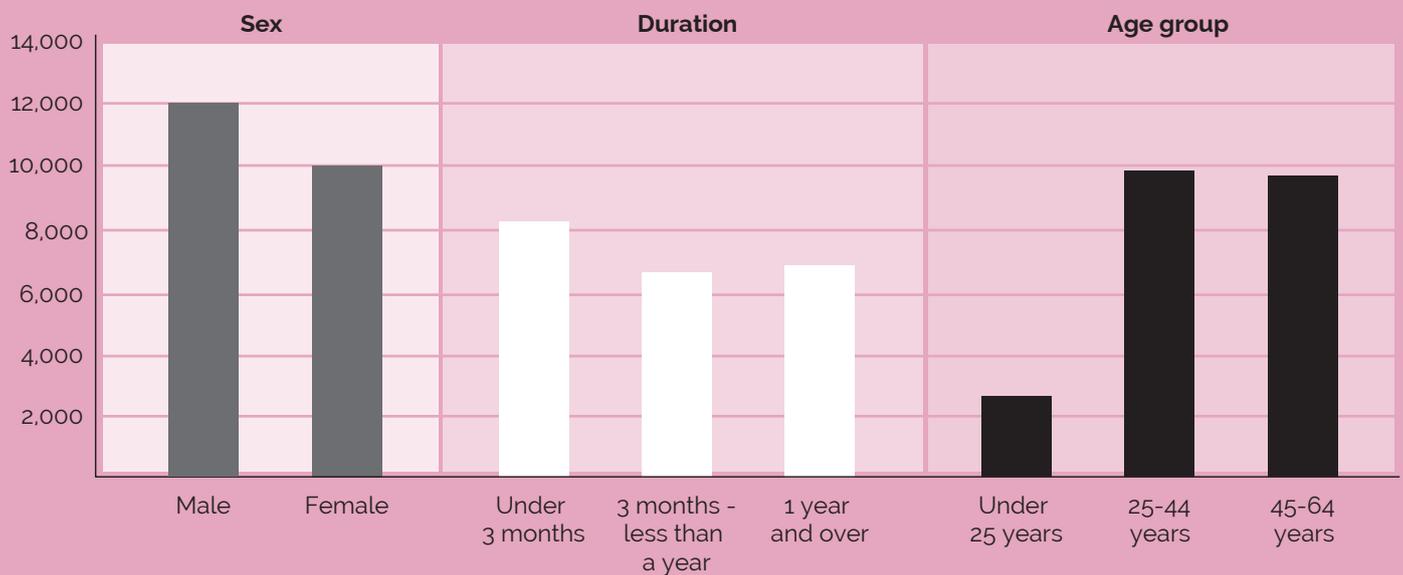
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data
*Refers to persons aged 15-74 years

Live Register – Mid-East Region, October 2025

Of the 21,944 persons on the Live Register in the Mid-East region in October 2025,



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



Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (Live Register) data

Overall Comments: Mid-East Region

- The Mid-East was one of only two regions (the other being the Midland region) where **employment fell** between Q2 2024 and Q2 2025, although with just 900 fewer workers the decline was almost negligible (at -0.2%).
- The Mid-East region had the **second highest unemployment rate** (at 5.3%) nationally, above the average of 4.8%; however, this region also had the **second highest labour force participation rate** (at nearly 68%, above the national average of 66.4%).
- In the year to Q2 2025, employment in the **construction** sector in this region grew by 28% (with 7,600 additional workers), the **second highest relative growth nationally**, after Dublin (+32%).
- The Mid-East was one of only two regions (the other being the Mid-West region) where **ICT sector employment** increased in the year to Q2 2025.
- This region had the largest percentage point (pp) increase in the unemployment rate between Q2 2024 and Q2 2025 (+1.7pp).