

<b>Key Labour Market Indicators<sup>1</sup> Q2 2025</b>	<b>Mid-West</b>	<b>State</b>
<b>Population (0+ years)</b>	<b>539,400</b>	<b>5,458,200</b>
Population by education level (25-64 years)		
FET (NFQ 4-6)	17%	13%
Third level	54%	57%
Working age population (15-64 years)	350,200	3,597,400
Labour force participation rate (15 years +)	64.9%	66.4%
Males	69.9%	71.6%
Females	60.2%	61.3%
Employment (15 years +)	276,100	2,818,100
% Total national employment	10%	100%
Employment growth (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	3.3%	2.3%
Males	1.6%	3.0%
Females	5.3%	1.5%
Employment change (Q2 2024-Q2 2025)	8,900	63,900
Males	2,200	43,700
Females	6,700	20,200
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.8%
Share of workforce working from home (sometimes or usually)	33.6%	35.9%

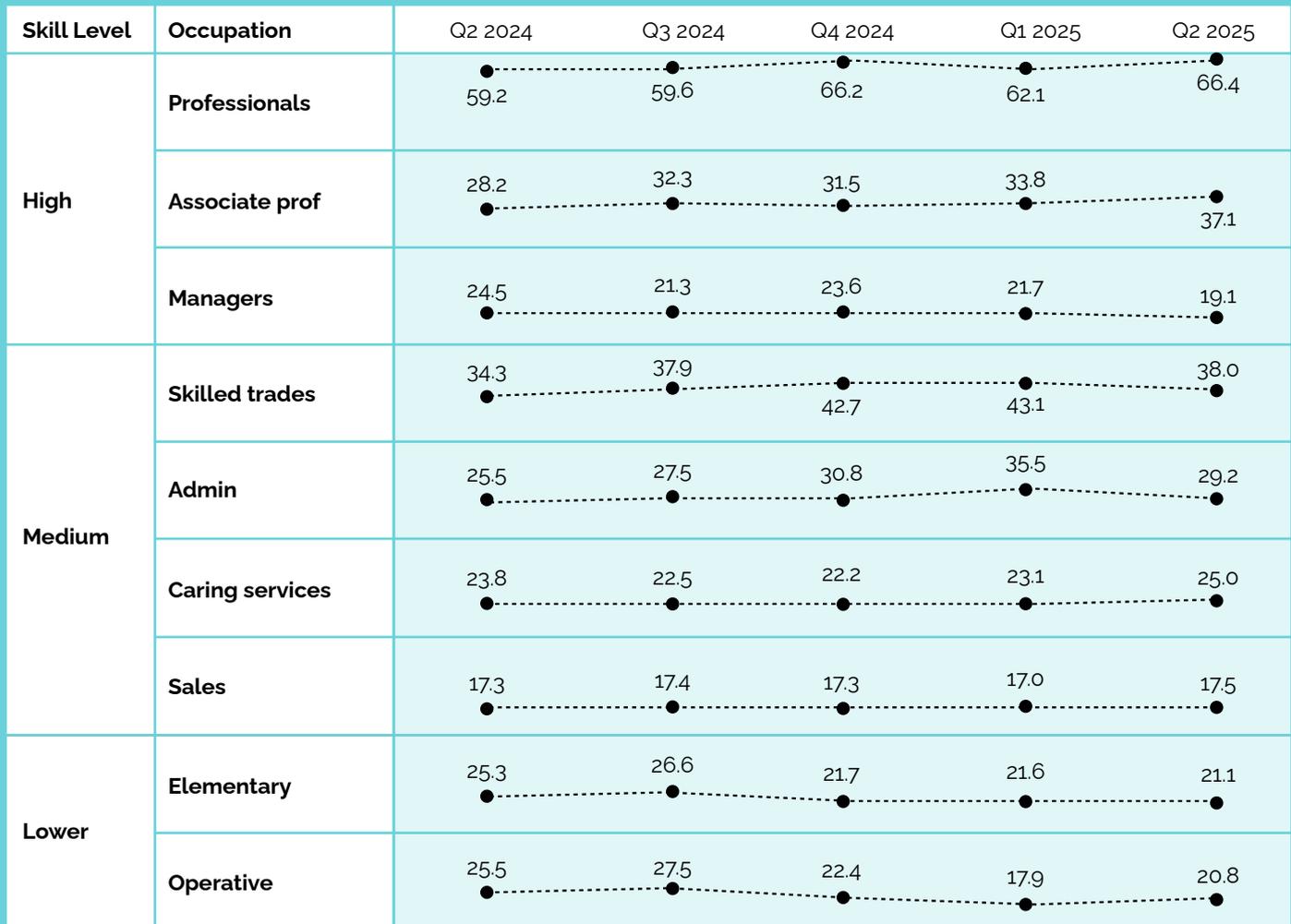
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

<sup>1</sup> 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-West Region

More than two fifths (44%) of employment was in high skilled occupations in Q2 2025; only Dublin and the Mid-East regions had higher shares.

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-West		State
		Change	% Change	% Change
High	Managers	-5,400	-22%	4%
	Professionals	7,200	12%	5%
	Assoc. prof	8,900	32%	-2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Medium	Admin	3,700	15%	2%
	Caring services	1,200	5%	3%
	Skilled trades	3,700	11%	4%
	Sales	200	1%	1%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Lower	Operative	-4,700	-18%	1%
	Elementary	-4,200	-17%	1%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-8,900</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>1%</b>

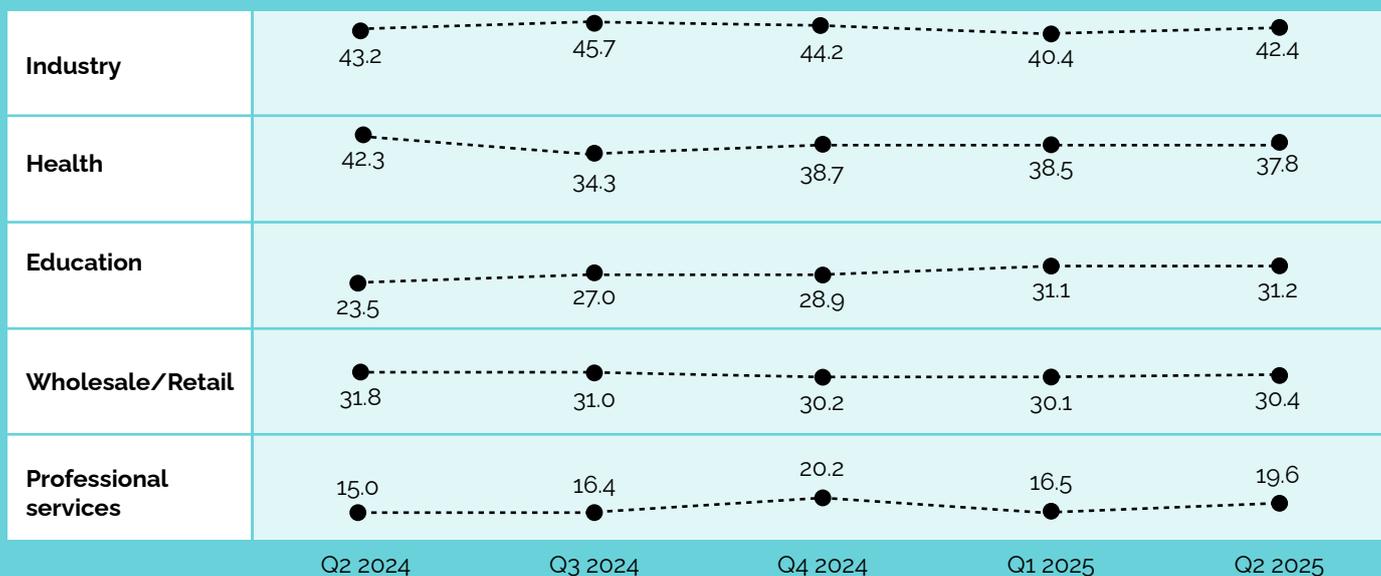
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data; excludes not stated

- In the year to quarter 2 2025, there was a strong shift towards employment in **higher skilled occupations**: the share of high skilled workers rose from 39% to 44% (representing 10,700 extra workers – the second largest absolute increase after Dublin); over the same period, the share of **lower skilled workers declined** from 20% to 15% (8,900 fewer workers).
- The share of **medium skilled workers** remained unchanged at 40% in the year to Q2 2025; this is despite an increase of 8,800 workers in these occupations, driven by 3,700 additional workers in both administrative and skilled trades (including farmers) occupations.

## Sectoral Employment in the Mid-West Region

58% of total employment in the Mid-West region was in the top five sectors (Q2 2025)

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-West		State	
	Industry	%	Industry	%
Industry	-800	-2%	2%	
Health	-4,500	-11%	4%	
Education	7,700	33%	4%	
Wholesale & retail	-1,400	-4%	2%	
Professional services	4,600	31%	3%	

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data

### Outside the Top 5 Sectors

The largest absolute increases were for

- ICT (3,200)
- Accom/food (2,400)
- Finance (2,700)

The only declines were for

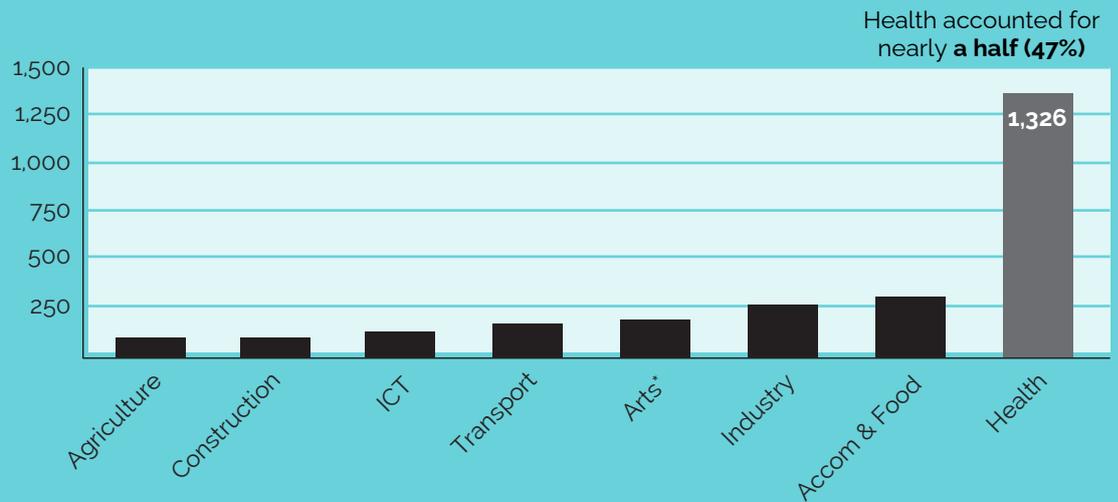
- Transport (-3,800)
- Admin & support (-500)
- Public admin & defence (-3,000)

# Employment Permits in the Mid-West Region

**2,811**

**new employment permits issued in 2024**, representing 8% of the total

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

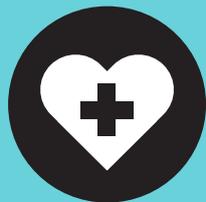


\*Arts comprises, arts, entertainment and recreation and other services

The top **5 occupations\*** accounted for **56%** of new permits (Mid-West (2024))



**548**  
Nurses



**414**  
Healthcare assistants



**267**  
Doctors



**244**  
Chefs



**110**  
ICT professionals

Source: DETE

\*Other job titles included various engineers, aircraft/HGV mechanics, welders/fabricators, HGV drivers, farm workers

## Companies with recent job announcements in the region

Numbers of jobs announced	
Buttimer Engineering	200
Aerogen	725 (over the next 10 years)
Northern Trust	n/a
Cook Medical	12
BD Medical	n/a



# IDA job creation pipeline in the Mid-West region

**870**

jobs announced 2024\*, representing 6% of the total; most were spread across high-tech manufacturing and scientific R&D activities.

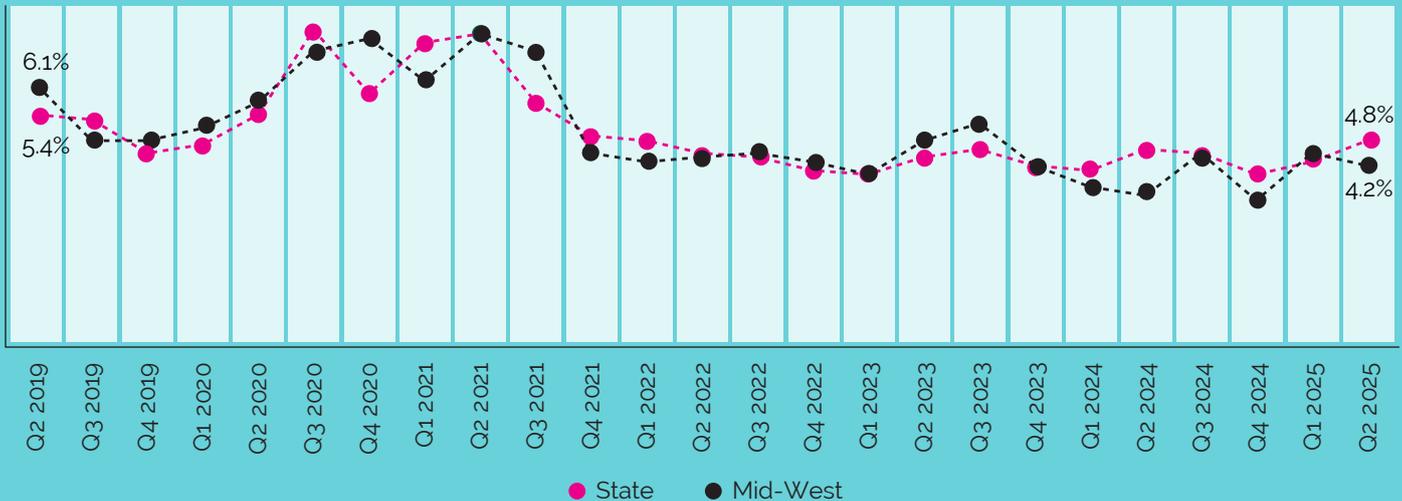
Table 3. IDA jobs announced in the Mid-West region, 2024

Occupation	Jobs announced
<b>Professionals, of which</b>	<b>479</b>
IT professionals (developers etc)	237
Engineers (QC/QA, regulatory)	94
Other engineers (product, process, electronic, electrical etc)	97
R&D professionals	46
Other	5
<b>Associate professionals, of which</b>	<b>369</b>
Science/engineering technicians	291
Data analysts	61
Business associate professionals	17
<b>Other (managers, skilled trades, admin &amp; operatives)</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>870</b>

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

## Unemployment\* in the Mid-West Region

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



Numbers unemployed Q2 2025

**12,000**

Change from Q2 2024

**2,400**  
unemployed persons

UE rate Q2 2025

**4.2%**

Change in UE rate from Q2 2024

**0.7** percentage points

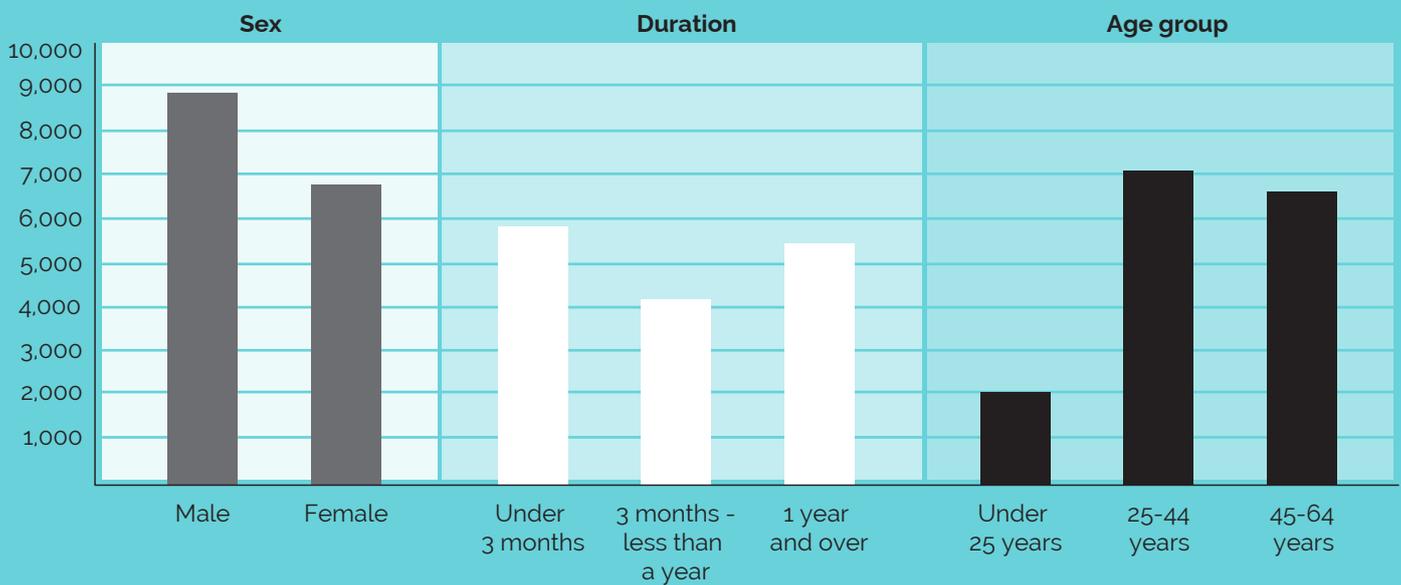
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (LFS) data  
\*Refers to persons aged 15-74 years

## Live Register – Mid-West Region, October 2025

Of the 15,598 persons on the Live Register in the Mid-West region in October 2025,



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



Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO (Live Register) data

## Overall Comments: Mid-West Region

- In Q2 2025, the Mid-West region was one of only two regions in Ireland (the other being Dublin) where the **professional services sector** was among the top five largest (in terms of employment numbers).
- The Mid-West, together with the Border region, had the **second lowest unemployment rate** (4.2%) nationally in Q2 2025; only the West region (at 3.9%) had a lower rate.
- Between Q2 2024 and Q2 2025, the Mid-West
  - » had **the largest increase in the number of females in employment**, with 6,700 extra workers.
  - » was one of only two regions to see an increase in employment in the ICT sector (the other was the Mid-East) and contrary to the total fall in ICT employment nationally.