

Annual Report 2022

ABOUT THE ESRI

The mission of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) is to advance evidence-based policymaking that supports economic sustainability and social progress in Ireland. ESRI researchers apply the highest standards of academic excellence to challenges facing policymakers, focusing on 10 areas of critical importance to 21st Century Ireland.

The Institute was founded in 1960 by a group of senior civil servants led by Dr T.K. Whitaker, who identified the need for independent and in-depth research analysis to provide a robust evidence base for policymaking in Ireland.

Since then, the Institute has remained committed to independent research and its work is free of any expressed ideology or political position. The Institute publishes all research reaching the appropriate academic standard, irrespective of its findings or who funds the research. The quality of its research output is guaranteed by a rigorous peer review process. ESRI researchers are experts in their fields and are committed to producing work that meets the highest academic standards and practices.

The work of the Institute is disseminated widely in books, journal articles and reports. ESRI publications are available to download, free of charge, from its website. Additionally, ESRI staff communicate research findings at regular conferences and seminars.

The ESRI is a company limited by guarantee, answerable to its members and governed by a Council, comprising up to 14 members who represent a cross-section of ESRI members from academia, civil services, state agencies, businesses and civil society. The Institute receives an annual grant-in-aid from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to support the scientific and public interest elements of the Institute's activities; the grant accounted for an average of 30 per cent of the Institute's income over the lifetime of the last Research Strategy. The remaining funding comes from research programmes supported by government departments and agencies, public bodies and competitive research programmes.

Further information is available at www.esri.ie.

The Council is the Institute’s overall governing body and acts as its board of directors. In association with the Director and staff, the Council is responsible for the development of the Institute’s research strategy. The Council meets quarterly and is supported by its three sub-committees: Audit and Risk, Business and Operations, and Governance and Nominations. Section 6 provides a short biography of Council Members.

The Council

MEMBERS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022



***Mr S. O'Driscoll,
President and Chairperson***



***Professor A. Barrett,
Director***

MR SEAN O'DRISCOLL, President and Chairperson

PROFESSOR ALAN BARRETT, Director, Economic and Social Research Institute

PROFESSOR KATY HAYWARD, Queen's University Belfast

MR GABRIEL MAKHLOUF, Governor, Central Bank of Ireland

PROFESSOR SANDRA McNALLY, University of Surrey, UK

MR DAVID MOLONEY, Secretary-General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

MR RÓNÁN MURPHY, former PwC, current board member of Davy, ICON plc and Greencoat Renewables plc

PROFESSOR CIARÁN Ó hÓGARTAIGH, President, University of Galway

Ms ANNE O'LEARY, Head of Meta Ireland and VP, Global Business Group, EMEA

PROFESSOR ROWENA PECCHENINO, Maynooth University

DR ORLAIGH QUINN, Secretary General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

MR PAT RABBITTE, former Minister, former leader of the Labour Party, Chairperson of Tusla – Child and Family Agency

Table of Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	2
	Independence and funding	2
	Council governance	2
	Research outputs in 2022	3
	Growing Up In Ireland (GUI).....	4
	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014	4
	Protected Disclosures Act 2014	4
	People	4
2.	SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022.....	6
	2.1 Research	6
	2.2 Funding	7
	2.3 Dissemination and communications	8
	2.4 Growing Up in Ireland	8
	2.5 Human resources.....	9
	2.6 Business processes	10
3.	RESEARCH IN 2022	11
	1.Behavioural Science	11
	2.Competitiveness, Trade and FDI	12
	3.Education	13
	4.Energy, Environment and Infrastructure	14
	5.Growing Up in Ireland.....	15
	6.Health and Quality of Life	16
	7.Labour Market and Skills.....	17
	8.Macroeconomics.....	18
	9.Migration, Integration and Demography.....	19
	10. Social Inclusion and Equality	20
	11. Tax, Welfare and Pensions	21
4.	RESEARCH AREA COORDINATORS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022.....	23
5.	STAFF AT 31 DECEMBER 2022.....	25
6.	ESRI COUNCIL – BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION	28
7.	WHITAKER PATRONS AND CORPORATE MEMBERS.....	31

1. INTRODUCTION

The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) aims to produce economic and social research on key issues facing Ireland and to communicate research results to inform public policymaking and civil society. The Council of the ESRI supports this work by setting and overseeing the Institute's strategic objectives, establishing the required quality standards and ensuring that the independent analysis provided by the Institute remains relevant to the economic and social issues facing policymakers in Ireland. While the Council is responsible for internal governance, Council members play no role in preparing or commenting on specific research.

This introduction sets out the Council's views on how the Institute maintains its reputation as a centre for excellence in independent policy-focused research. It also includes a brief overview of the Institute's governance and its research output in 2022, the fourth year of its 2019-2023 research strategy.

Independence and funding

The Institute's research strategy reaffirms the importance of the ESRI's commitment to producing research that is independent, objective and of high quality. Independence is assured through the contractual relationships between the Institute and its clients, and underpinned by a policy of publishing research, regardless of the findings or source of funding. Quality, objectivity and independence are further supported by a rigorous peer review system, which is examined regularly by the Council, and by peer reviews of the Institute itself. One such peer review of the Institute was undertaken in 2022, with the report published and available on our website.

In recent years, the Institute has focused on building financial sustainability through multi-annual programmes of research funded by government departments and agencies. The Council acknowledges the importance of the continued support from Government in the form of the annual grant-in-aid, provided by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. It recognises the substantial contribution of many government departments and agencies that funded research programmes in 2022. Competitive funding processes, both within Ireland and the European Union (EU), represent another major source of research funding for the Institute.

In 2021, the Institute set about re-designing and re-launching our membership programme, and significant progress was observed in 2022. Our goal was to generate a new fund for research on some of the critical medium- to long-term issues facing Ireland. We have been very gratified by the positive response from both existing and new members, all of whom have signalled a strong commitment to supporting the independent, policy-focused research which the ESRI undertakes. Our Whitaker Patrons and Corporate Members are listed below.

Council governance

The Council of the ESRI continues to ensure that its standards of corporate governance operate to the highest level. There is keen awareness of where potential conflicts of interest can arise and a strong commitment to ensuring that Council membership is appropriately balanced. The Council's Governance and Nominations sub-committee monitors membership to ensure that the Council has the requisite skills, broad sectoral coverage and gender balance.

Normally, Council membership is for a three-year period, with a renewal being common for a further three years. Council members are not paid any fees for their membership of the Council. Members are nominated through a formal process and elected at the Institute's annual general meeting.

In 2022, Sandra McNally, Rónán Murphy (Chair), Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh and Rowena Pecchenino served on the Audit and Risk sub-committee. Alan Barrett, Katy Hayward, David Moloney and Pat Rabbitte (Chair) served on the Business and Operations sub-committee. Sean O'Driscoll, Rowena Pecchenino, Orlaigh Quinn and Pat Rabbitte served on the Governance and Nominations subcommittee.

There were no retirements from or entry onto the Council in 2022.

Research outputs in 2022

The COVID-19 crisis eased in 2022 and we began trialling a new blended approach to working in the office and from home. Our research output remained strong, with researchers continuing to publish in a wide range of outlets throughout the year. This included 61 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 43 reports and 2 book chapters. In addition, 22 Research Bulletins were published in which journal article content was presented in a succinct, accessible manner. Works in progress were disseminated via 23 Working Papers.

The dissemination of research continues to be a core part of our work and, in 2022, ESRI researchers were interviewed on radio and TV on 86 occasions. Researchers also appeared before Oireachtas committees on 9 occasions. In addition, we organised 28 events such as workshops and conferences.

While the research output is too broad to provide a comprehensive overview, we will point to a limited number of important outputs here. Further details are available on our website (www.esri.ie) and in our annual review of research.

First, the energy price increases in 2022 resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine prompted a need for the Government to provide support to households. Researchers at the Institute provided valuable analytical inputs by estimating the extent to which energy poverty was rising and by demonstrating how different approaches to energy subsidies could better target those households in greatest need.

Second, while the ESRI has often undertaken work on Northern Ireland and all-island issues, our work in this area continued to expand in 2022. Partly through our work with the Shared Island Unit of the Department of the Taoiseach, we were able to produce important work on issues such as productivity and education in Northern Ireland. We also held a joint conference with Ulster University in Belfast to discuss the work on education.

Third, over the years the Institute has specialised in developing statistical models which are run and maintained with a view to answering questions on economic and social processes. Through 2022, we continued to draw on our macroeconomic model (COSMO) and our tax-welfare model (SWITCH) in analysing a range of policy challenges. However, with attention increasingly turning to climate, we made good progress in developing our climate model (I3E) and in expanding the funding base which supports this development.

Growing Up In Ireland (GUI)

In late 2018, a decision was taken jointly by the ESRI, the Central Statistics Office and the then Department of Children and Youth Affairs that the Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) study would be transferred to the Central Statistics Office after 2022. This decision recognised that the study is now of such importance that it should become more embedded in the State's official data collection systems. On foot of this decision, discussions began in 2019 between the three agencies on how the transfer would be managed in such a way that the study's richness would be maintained. Work on the logistics of the transfer of GUI concluded in 2022 and the ESRI staff in our GUI division transferred to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

The ESRI continued to use the GUI data in 2022 to produce insightful studies drawing on the richness of this unique data source. Reports were published on topics such as the impact of the pandemic and children and young people and young people's gambling habits.

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014

The Institute is committed to the implementation of policies and actions which are consistent with the duties conferred on public bodies by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. As part of the process of applying for Athena Swan accreditation, the Institute completed its Gender Equality Plan and will now go on to develop the Athena Swan application, which is due to be submitted in June 2023. This is a quality charter accreditation scheme that recognises good practice in higher education and research institutions towards advancing gender equality across the grounds enshrined in Irish legislation.

Protected Disclosures Act 2014

There were no protected disclosures made to the ESRI in 2022.

People

The Council would like to commend the Institute's staff whose expertise and commitment enables the Institute to continually identify new solutions to policy challenges. The Council would also like to thank the government departments, state agencies, Whitaker Patrons and corporate and individual members who support critical research programmes, and the many stakeholders who engage with the work of the Institute. Such support enables the Institute to work towards realising its vision of being 'the leading source of independent, high-quality socio-economic research in support of informed policy for a better Ireland'.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of two former colleagues in 2022: Professor Jerry Sexton and Professor Chris Whelan. Jerry Sexton made substantial contributions in areas such as migration and occupational forecasting, and spent time on secondment to the OECD. Chris Whelan's work focused on poverty, deprivation and social exclusion, and he made path-breaking contributions on topics such as the measurement of poverty. Both Jerry and Chris were enormously generous in mentorship roles, in addition to undertaking their own valuable work.

Finally, the passing of a current colleague always generates particular feelings of loss for an organisation and its staff; we suffered this sad experience in 2022 with the death of our colleague Elaine Byrne. Elaine was a key person in the Irish national contact point of the European Migration Network, which is part of the ESRI. She is sadly missed.

Sean O'Driscoll
President and Chairperson

Alan Barrett
Director

2. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022

The Institute's Strategy 2019–2023 was collaboratively developed in 2018 through a comprehensive strategic process. The strategy outlines the Institute's priority actions for the period in the context of the Institute's mission, vision, goals and values. Our goals of research excellence and relevance, effective communications and policy impact are achieved through strategic actions under the headings: research; funding; dissemination and communications; Growing Up in Ireland (GUI); human resources; and business processes.

The Council oversees the implementation of the research strategy through twice-yearly reports to the Business and Operations sub-committee. The reports cover the research agenda across the 11 research areas, as well as the implementation of the strategic actions.

This section briefly sets out the progress made in 2022 in delivering on the strategic actions.

2.1 Research

Strategic actions under the broad heading of research focus on excellence, relevance and impact. In 2022, the third in a series of independent peer reviews of the Institute was completed and published (on our website). The overall very positive assessment included comments such as that the ESRI 'is a very strong and respected brand in Ireland based on a very positive perception of the quality and independence of its research output', and that 'a high level of trust is placed in the thoroughness, professionalism and independence of [the ESRI's] work by virtually all stakeholders'.

We continued to undertake relevant research, such as the joint research programme with the Department of the Taoiseach on economic and social opportunities from increased cooperation on the Shared Island. One strand of research found higher rates of early school-leaving and greater levels of intergenerational inequality in Northern Ireland than in Ireland.

Under our strategy, we are aiming to 'strengthen our interaction with policymakers' and to 'expand ESRI participation on commissions, review groups and other policy bodies'. The energy crisis has led to considerable action on these goals. For many years, the Institute has been active in energy economics and, since the onset of the energy crisis, the Department of Energy, Climate and Communications (DECC) has sought to draw on this expertise, and on other areas of ESRI expertise. The Director has been appointed to DECC's Energy Security Emergency Group and is acting as a direct link between this group and the ESRI team. DECC has asked the ESRI to produce analysis on energy markets and energy poverty, and also to provide input on the design of information campaigns. In this way, our research and analytical capabilities are being drawn upon at this time of crisis.

The relevance of the Institute's research was commented on by the peer review panel: 'Current and recent research priorities include highly topical subjects, including various aspects of Covid, Brexit, energy and climate policy, along with continuing work on issues of more long-term policy concern, including competitiveness, inequality, labour market issues, trade, etc. Many observers were very impressed by the way in which the Institute was able to pivot quickly to do innovative and impactful

work on Covid in particular. In terms of subject matter, therefore, the work of the ESRI was seen as highly relevant to existing policy concerns.'

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for timely information on the evolving economic impacts of such a crisis. This is made difficult by the fact that official estimates of economic indicators are released with a substantial lag. Using the case of Ireland, our Nowcasting reports show that the information contained in monthly economic indicators can be used to provide very up-to-date indicators of economic activity under the methodological framework of a dynamic factor model (DFM). The output is now being published on a monthly basis to inform short-term forecasting exercises.

The Institute's quality standards were maintained by the application of its robust internal review processes and external peer review of its publications, and by publication in refereed journals. One of our actions is to 'Strengthen the culture of continuous professional development'; under this, staff have been supported to undertake various training and development programmes.

2.2 Funding

The ESRI is mainly funded through the core grant-in-aid from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and specific programmes and project funds. In 2022 we faced the challenge of the impending loss of income on the transfer of the Growing Up In Ireland project out of the Institute (December 2022), and, with no increase in our grant-in-aid funding, there was increased pressure to strengthen alternative funding sources.

Through ongoing collaborations between the Institute and funders on key research topics, a number of important research programmes were renewed, with increased budgets, including our programme with the Department of Health which has been extended to the end of 2024 with an annual budget close to €500,000.

We continually seek new programmes and projects; 2022 saw success here too. Our Behavioural Research Unit secured a new programme worth €160,000 with the National Transport Authority (NTA) (on active travel) and our Energy team secured funding of €200,000 from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to conduct two projects on green hydrogen. We also secured new programmes with the NTA, on active travel initiatives, with the Gambling Regulator and with the HSE. The Energy team secured new funding, with the bulk coming from continued successful collaboration with the Energy Centre in UCD. The Labour team secured a new research programme with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Finally, colleagues in the Health and Education areas secured funding from the Health Research Board to conduct work on mental health and wellbeing in childhood and adolescence.

Parallel to our efforts on direct research funding, we continued to pursue and have success in securing funding from new Whitaker Patrons and corporate members. Our membership programme included new breakfast briefings, with presentations from our researchers on topics of interest.

We were grateful to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform for the increase in grant funding in Budget 2022, bringing the grant to €3.25 million for 2023. This will allow us to undertake important public-good research not funded through other sources.

2.3 Dissemination and communications

In 2022 we continued to disseminate our work actively through our publications, events, media engagements, our website and social media platforms.

The Institute's investment in communication was commented on by the peer review panel: 'Several stakeholders noted how [the ESRI] had "upped its game" on communications in recent years. A bigger presence on national broadcast media and social media was identified, with some researchers and senior figures in the Institute particularly prominent.'

ESRI engagement with the media ensures that our work reaches a wide audience and informs policy debate. ESRI staff regularly contributed to radio and TV programmes. We saw an increase in the number of media references, media releases issued and coverage. For example, *Energy poverty and deprivation in Ireland*, published in June, received extensive media coverage, including in related exchanges in the Dáil chamber. In addition to media releases, we also provided opinion pieces, including two in The Irish Times: 'Shared Island: Impact of education on NI's human capital must be addressed', and 'No point pretending we don't need new sources of fossil fuels'.

The year 2022 saw a return to in-person events alongside our online and hybrid events. While our webinars have the advantage of potentially reaching a wider audience, in-person events provide a greater opportunity for interaction and networking. Events in 2022 covered a variety of topics. We had the pleasure of welcoming Minister Paschal Donohoe to open our annual Budget Perspectives conference and of welcoming Minister Joe O'Brien to launch the study 'Headline Poverty Target Reduction in Ireland and the Role of Work and Social Welfare'. The Director had the opportunity to interact with Government members when he chaired the National Economic Dialogue once again.

The annual joint Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Health Service Executive (HSE)/ESRI Environment, Health & Wellbeing Conference discussed managing a broad range of environment and health risks and challenges that we face in a changing environment. Another event, 'The Global Emissions Impact of Irish Consumption', presented research, funded by the EPA, on the estimated global emissions from Irish consumption and the potential use of a green VAT to reduce consumption-based emissions.

Finally, the findings of the Shared Island research, 'A North-South comparison of education and training systems: lessons for policy', were presented to an audience of stakeholders at an event in Belfast, co-hosted by Ulster University.

2.4 Growing Up in Ireland

At the time of writing the Institute's strategy in 2018, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs had not completed its considerations for the next stage of the Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) project.

For the purposes of the strategy, the strategic actions were aimed at ensuring the maximum usage of the data and the continued collection of high-quality data.

The ESRI continued to publish research drawing on GUI data. The report ‘The changing social worlds of 9-year-olds’, conducted as part of a research programme with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), was launched by the Minister Dr Roderic O’Gorman, TD. It documented changes in the lives of nine-year-olds over a decade, covering their relationships with family and peers, day-to-day activities, and engagement in learning.

Other events included the 14th annual GUI Research Conference and a GUI Data Workshop, part of a long-running series to promote and support the use of GUI datasets.

The GUI project transferred at the end of December 2022 to the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Nine GUI staff transferred to the CSO and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

2.5 Human resources

One of the primary challenges in 2022 was the management of hybrid working. A one-year blended working pilot began in 2022. Recognising that blended working risks a loss of connectivity and engagement, various initiatives commenced, including a series of internal conferences where staff have the opportunity to present on various topics and engage internally. The pilot will be reviewed in 2023.

A second important strand of human resources (HR) activity related to gender equity. In our strategy we list our values of collegiality, equality of opportunity and respect. In November, the ESRI published its Gender Equality Plan (GEP), with the primary purpose of ensuring that the ESRI promotes gender equality, inclusion and diversity both internally in its work environment and externally in its outputs and engagement with the public. Through developing this GEP, the Institute is committing to examining and, where applicable, addressing processes, cultures and structures that produce and sustain gender imbalances and inequalities. This plan also seeks to ensure that the Institute is a safe and supportive environment for all staff. The structure of the GEP aligns with the mandatory and recommended requirements set out in the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2021–2027. The GEP has been developed by a Self-Assessment Team comprising members from across the Institute’s divisions. It will feed into a more wide-ranging and in-depth plan which is being developed as part of the Institute’s Athena SWAN application planned for submission in mid-2023.

Activities to ensure the safety, health and welfare of staff working in the hybrid environment continued, with the actions related to staff welfare such as the programme of ergonomic and remote-working assessments, information seminars and training. An audit of occupational health and safety (OHS) management in the Institute was completed in June, providing a generally very positive assessment and useful recommendations. Follow-up actions saw the development of additional risk assessments and the documentation of governance and accountability arrangements, and a further suggestion for investment in an OHS system will be investigated in 2023.

Finally, throughout 2022 we continued to attract and retain highly qualified staff. However, we are increasingly concerned about our ability to continue doing so in the context of housing availability and cost, and competition from the private sector.

2.6 Business processes

Information technology (IT) security remained a major concern and thus attracted additional investment. Vulnerability tests were conducted. While many of the results were positive, set improvements were identified and actioned. A cyber response plan is being progressed.

With occupancy rates in the ESRI building at a lower level than before the hybrid working arrangement, the decision was taken to rent out space in the building, and discussions began on the future space requirements of the Institute, in a future hybrid working environment.

The Council of the ESRI represents a cross-section of ESRI members: academia, civil service, state agencies, businesses and civil society. The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies recommends that the Council carry out an external review of its effectiveness at least every three years. The internal audit was completed in 2022 and overall the findings were positive. Two important recommendations are being considered, related to providing induction to new members, and requirements around gender balance, diversity and inclusion in relation to Council members.

As the number, scale and complexity of projects has grown, an integrated project management system remains a priority for consideration in 2023.

3. RESEARCH IN 2022

This section provides an overview of our research activities and outputs in 2022, with brief summaries of research across the 11 research areas. Further details on the research and the researchers involved are available on the ESRI website (www.esri.ie).

1. Behavioural Science

The Behavioural Research Unit (BRU) uses controlled laboratory, online and field experiments to investigate decisions and behaviours across multiple policy areas. Most of the BRU's work centres on environmental, health and financial outcomes.

The BRU undertook two studies to measure how people in Ireland understand climate change and how this relates to support for climate action. The first, funded by Allied Irish Banks (AIB), revealed that, while the very large majority of adults in Ireland believe in human-caused climate change and worry about it, they do not know which behaviours have large or small climate impacts. Improved basic knowledge led to greater willingness to support higher carbon taxes. The second study, commissioned by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), showed that young people (aged 16–24) support radical government action on climate change and become more motivated to act when informed about how much older people also care about the climate.

The BRU partnered with Bank of Ireland, in work commissioned by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, to carry out a large randomised controlled trial designed to raise savings rates among households vulnerable to financial shocks. The team used findings from behavioural science to redesign online savings account application forms and marketing. The interventions increased uptake of savings accounts by between 20 and 40 per cent, with the largest effects among low-income households.

In work funded by the Department of Health, the BRU designed an experiment to test whether a front-of-pack nutritional label, 'Nutri-Score', would lead consumers to make more healthy purchases. The study confirmed that the label is effective in improving consumer choices, with an additional impact likely due to food companies shifting to products with better Nutri-Scores.

Until June 2022, the BRU continued to deliver the Social Activity Measure (SAM) for the Department of the Taoiseach, informing the ongoing pandemic response via an anonymous fortnightly assessment of people's social activities. The BRU's work on COVID-19 also included an experiment showing that people underestimated the effectiveness of the vaccine, and a review of successful vaccine promotion for the Department of Health. Other BRU work in 2022 included: investigating why consumers struggle to choose the best value financial products, for the Department of Finance; designing and testing an improved comparison tool to help people choose more appropriate health insurance, for the Health Insurance Authority (HIA); and a diagnostic study of people's understanding of and willingness to engage with domestic waste separation for the EPA.

2. Competitiveness, Trade and FDI

ESRI research in this area focuses primarily on structural and microeconomic factors and policies underlying competitiveness and economic growth in Ireland and other European countries in the context of international economic integration. In 2022 research in this area addressed the following three overarching themes: challenges and opportunities for enterprises in the areas of digitalisation, sustainability, innovation and productivity; attractiveness to foreign direct investment (FDI) and associated economic, social and spatial effects; and the trade impacts of Brexit.

Research funded by the European Commission examined the economic importance of middle-sized companies (mid-caps, companies with at least 250 but fewer than 1,500 employees) in EU member states and the specific challenges these companies face, particularly in the areas of innovation, digitalisation and sustainability. Key findings indicate that mid-caps grow faster than the average enterprise in most EU member states. Most mid-caps are active on markets outside the EU and a considerable number are subsidiaries of foreign-owned multinationals. Among factors hampering the growth of mid-caps, most pressing are difficulties in finding employees, supply-chain disruptions, regulation and administrative burden. Rising energy prices emerged as a major challenge for mid-caps in recent months.

Research funded by the European Commission published in 2022 examined spillovers from foreign affiliates of multinationals on the trade activities of Irish-owned firms. The results indicate that supply-chain linkages with foreign affiliates help Irish-owned firms to diversify their exports and imports, while a larger foreign presence in the same region is associated with a reduction of the number of products imported and exported by local firms. Engagement in research and development (R&D) activity allows local firms to mitigate some of the negative effects of the presence of foreign-owned firms in the same region, and enhance the local firms' gains arising through supply chain linkages.

Research funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment examined the potential overlap between increased use of digital technologies and climate adaptation strategies at a firm level. Some of the key findings are that larger and more productive firms are more likely to have higher degrees of digitalisation and to have climate action plans in place. This research also found a reasonably large share of firms that had positive attitudes to the importance of climate planning but without reporting of corresponding concrete actions, suggesting a gap for policy to address.

Research undertaken as part of this research area evaluated the impact of Brexit on trade between the EU and UK by analysing detailed product flows between the UK and EU. Taking into account changes in data methodology, this work found that, relative to the EU's trade with the rest of the world, Brexit had a substantial dampening effect on trade between the EU and UK compared to the scenario in which Brexit had not occurred.

Research was progressed in 2022, with results expected in 2023, on the diffusion of digital technologies and its impacts on the innovation and productivity of enterprises in Ireland. One strand of this research, focused on the diffusion of artificial intelligence, has been undertaken in partnership with a team of OECD economists.

Two research projects started in 2022, with results expected in 2023. Research funded by the Department of Finance examines the likely effects of the proposed global tax reforms on Ireland's attractiveness to FDI and the associated medium and long-term effects on the wider economy. A large-scale research project funded under the European Commission's Horizon Europe Programme examines the economic, social and spatial inequalities in the EU in the context of increased global challenges. The ESRI research team is part of a European Research Consortium comprising research organisations from 10 EU countries and the UK.

Previous research in this area influenced the formulation of a number of policy initiatives and policy decisions in 2022. ESRI research on the attractiveness of the island of Ireland to high-value FDI, carried out in partnership with the Department of the Taoiseach, has influenced a number of policy initiatives aimed at increasing all-island public investment in R&D such as the agreed Co-Centres for Research and Innovation and the North-South Research Programme in the higher-education sector, as well as policy formulation in the context of the 10x Trade and Investment Strategy in Northern Ireland. ESRI research on skills needs to support enterprise innovation and the transition to a low-carbon economy, undertaken in partnership with Skillnet Ireland, has informed the design and launching of a Sustainability Leaders Programme which supports enterprise leaders in integrating sustainability into their business strategy. The programme is offered by the Climate Ready Academy in partnership with Chambers Ireland and Skillnet Ireland.

3. Education

The ESRI Education research area covers all levels of the Irish educational system, including early childhood education, primary, second-level, and further and higher education.

Research in 2022 focused on educational inequality, educational outcomes among migrant-origin children, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and policy and provision for students with additional needs. The work spans cross-national research and studies focusing on education in Ireland.

In October, the European Commission Expert Group on Quality Investment in Education and Training published its final report; one ESRI researcher was a member. The report highlighted the need for early intervention to ensure educational equity and criticised the role of school segregation and ability tracking in reinforcing inequality.

Comparative research undertaken for the Shared Island Unit with colleagues in the Labour Market area showed higher rates of early school-leaving and greater levels of intergenerational inequality in Northern Ireland than in Ireland. Interviews with key stakeholders highlighted common challenges in the two jurisdictions around ensuring educational equity and inclusion.

Based on Growing Up in Ireland data, two papers showed that young people with special educational needs (SEN) were more likely to leave school early and less likely to plan to attend higher education than students without SEN. Distinguishing among different kinds of SEN, results also showed that higher-education entry was lower among those with socio-emotional difficulties, even after controlling for key characteristics.

As part of a research programme with the Department of Children, Equality, Diversity, Integration and Youth, a report published in March showed that migrant-origin children made considerable progress in English language development between three and nine years of age, though average reading scores remained lower at nine than among Irish-origin children. Comparing nine-year-olds born a decade apart, a report published in November indicated that gender differences in attitudes to maths widened over time, and that inequalities by social background in reading for pleasure increased. A third report under this programme, published in June, documented the disruption caused by the pandemic to engagement in further and higher education and the negative effects on mental health among young adults.

Work continued for the National Council for Special Education on a large-scale study on post-school pathways among young people with SEN. The study will be important in shaping provision for students with additional needs in special and mainstream schools and across the post-school landscape.

A new mixed-method study for the Joint Managerial Body for Voluntary Secondary Schools began in September. The study will provide a broad answer to the question of what voluntary secondary schools provide to students and the community across different contexts and settings.

Work continued on the PIONEERED study, a Horizon 2020-funded project on educational inequality across Europe. Work also began on the ESSPIN study, a Horizon Europe-funded study on social, economic and spatial inequalities in the European Union in the context of increased global challenges.

4. Energy, Environment and Infrastructure

Energy and climate research is funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), Commission for Regulation of Utilities, ESB, Gas Networks Ireland, EirGrid, SSE Ireland, Viridian, Terra Solar, Community Foundation for Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. Research on the environment is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the Climate Health Alliance (CHA), while research on electronic communications networks and services is funded by the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) and DECC.

The ESRI's Research Programme on Climate, Energy and the Economy continued the development of its analytical model, Ireland Environment, Energy and Economy (I3E), and produced several research outputs, including an assessment of the impact of aviation taxation, as well as the distributional impacts of switching from value-added tax (VAT) to carbon tax. Research also calculated Ireland's carbon emissions assessed on a consumption rather than a production basis, finding that Ireland's emissions calculated on a consumption basis are 76 per cent higher than those calculated on a production basis.

Research by the Energy Policy Research Centre spans topics such as residential energy efficiency, energy poverty and electricity markets. Research on green hydrogen in the electricity sector

demonstrated the potential for arbitrage opportunities and strategic trading among firms across day-ahead and balancing markets, and that electrolyser firms can potentially play a significant role in electricity system balancing. Research on planning and regulatory delays in the energy sector illustrates the impact on increased system costs and prices, as well as the impact on delivery of 2030 emissions targets. Several studies examined implications for energy poverty in the context of the cost-of-living crisis, including demonstrating which policy response (e.g. welfare payments, cutting direct taxation, lump-sum payments) are most efficient at tackling energy poverty. Research on residential Building Energy Ratings (BER) suggests that directly linking policy targets to a specific BER standard (i.e. B2) may lead to a CO2 emissions outcome substantially different than envisaged.

A further two-year extension to the EPA research programme on environmental economics was agreed in 2022, with 14 projects covering topics in behavioural science, health and climate included in the new programme. During 2022, research on farm technical efficiency and environmental payments and on green investments and firm performance was published. The ESRI continued to provide evidence for the EPA radon control programme; behavioural research on the design of the new radon risk map for Ireland was published in March 2022. The EPA-funded NOISE-HEALTH project finished in 2022, with publication of the final report. Other research from that project, released in August 2022, used data from the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) to show that exposure to road traffic noise was associated with lower quality of life among the older population in Dublin and Cork. A new project on the health effects of climate change, funded by the Climate Health Alliance, began in 2022.

The water research programme, in collaboration with DHLGH, examined farmers' attitudes and motivations behind responding to water pollution mitigation actions in the context of the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP). Research in the electronic communications research programme funded by DECC and ComReg examined gambling among young people, and found a strong association between higher rates of gambling and male participants in team sports.

The research area hosted nine public conferences, webinars or seminars, including giving evidence to Oireachtas committees during 2022.

5. Growing Up in Ireland

Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) is the national longitudinal study of children in Ireland. It is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and jointly managed by the Department and the Central Statistics Office.

The research is conducted by a consortium of independent researchers at the ESRI and Trinity College Dublin. The study covers two cohorts: Cohort '98 (followed from nine years of age) and Cohort '08 (followed from nine months old).

The year 2022 saw the completion of fieldwork with Cohort '08 at 13 years of age and, in collaboration with DCEDIY, the publication of a research needs report, intended to inform the nature and content of the fifth wave of data collection at 25 years of age for Cohort '98. To identify the

priorities for data collection, it drew on a review of literature and policy documents, a survey of and consultation with the Scientific Advisory Group and relevant policy stakeholders, and focus groups with adults in their mid-20s. The report was structured according to core areas of research interest: education/training; labour market experiences and income; physical health; mental and socio-emotional wellbeing; relationships; civic engagement; concerns and aspirations. The technical report on the pilot for Cohort '08 at 13 years of age was also published online.

The 2022 Growing Up in Ireland Annual Conference in May was a virtual event, opened by Minister Dr Roderic O'Gorman TD. The keynote address was given by Professor Alissa Goodman, University College London, and the research needs report on 25-year-olds was launched at the conference. In addition, there were seven presentations using Growing Up in Ireland data. ESRI researchers presented papers on post-school pathways among young people with special educational needs, higher-education entry among migrant-origin youth, digital skills, science take-up and online contact.

At the end of 2022, the GUI study and members of the study team made the transition to DCEDIY and the Central Statistics Office. The transition was marked by a farewell event on 6 November.

6. Health and Quality of Life

Health research was carried out in the areas of health service reform and public health during 2022. Health service research focused on further developments of the Hippocrates projection model of healthcare demand and expenditure. Other work in this area examined the cost implications of extending eligibility for GP care free at the point of use, and the sustainability of the long-term residential care sector. Public health research examined socio-economic inequalities in mortality, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of younger people, and the impact of environmental conditions on health and wellbeing.

Published in June, using data from the special COVID-19 surveys from Growing Up in Ireland (GUI), research funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth found that four-in-ten 22-year-old men and over half (55%) of 22-year-old women were classified as depressed in December 2020. These were much higher figures than two years previously when 22 per cent of men and 31 per cent of women were identified as depressed.

Research funded by the Health Service Executive using the ESRI's Hippocrates Model was published in July. The research examined public acute hospital workforce requirements across regions of Ireland and found that substantial expansion of the hospital workforce will be required across all regions and all staff categories up to 2035.

In September, a report examining inequalities in mortality was published. Funded by the Institute of Public Health, the research found that, while mortality rates have fallen substantially over time in Ireland, inequalities between different groups in the population remain. For example, in 2018 the mortality rate for adults in the least advantaged socio-economic group was twice as high as that in the most advantaged group. African-born mothers were found to have significantly higher rates of perinatal mortality than all other groups.

Published in September, research funded by the Environmental Protection Agency used data from the Irish Longitudinal Study of Ageing to examine the association between E. coli exceedances in drinking water supplies and healthcare utilisation among older people. The research found that, where E. coli was detected in water, there was a greater likelihood of increased utilisation of a range of healthcare services, including GP and emergency department visits, and nights spent in hospital.

In 2022, work continued on the HRB-funded project examining the sustainability of long-term residential care. A new research project focusing on the impact of minimum unit alcohol pricing began in September, while a new research programme on workforce projections, funded by the HSE, started in December. Two new research projects began in December, examining mental health and wellbeing from childhood to adolescence (funded by the HRB), and sexual health and wellbeing in young adulthood (funded by the HSE).

In October, researchers addressed the Seanad Public Consultation Committee on the Constitutional Future of the Island of Ireland and the Women's Parliamentary Caucus.

7. Labour Market and Skills

During 2022, research was undertaken on a range of issues and a number of new publications were either released or finalised. The team launched two reports, funded by the Shared Island Unit in the Department for Taoiseach, examining cross-border differences in education and productivity.

Two studies, funded by the Low Pay Commission, were published: on the heterogeneous impacts of minimum-wage changes on hours worked, and on a universal basic income (UBI) for Ireland, using evidence from the international literature.

The UBI study reviewed the potential advantages and disadvantages of a UBI policy, and set out a range of recommendations for the design of any future UBI pilot in Ireland. In terms of potential advantages, a UBI would avoid situations where people choose not to work in order to retain means-tested benefits. It could give individuals the freedom to turn down or leave insecure, exploitative or low-paid work in pursuit of better employment opportunities. However, a UBI is likely to be expensive even if other existing benefits (such as unemployment benefits) are no longer required. It was estimated that implementing a UBI in Ireland in 2019 could have involved a gross cost of close to €50 billion per year.

A study funded by the Department for Employment and Social Protection recalibrating the PEX statistical profiling model, currently in use in Intreo offices, has been completed and the team are assisting DEASP with model implementation.

Researchers have progressed work on a report on indicators for monitoring welfare levels in rural areas, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

During the year the team also completed a study examining the link between area-level deprivation and the economic impacts of COVID-19, under a research programme funded by Pobal.

In October 2022, partnership on a new research programme focusing on labour market and skills issues in Ireland was signed between the ESRI and the Department for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

Work progressed on several EU-funded projects. A report, completed under the Erasmus+ funded CHAISE project, forecasting the demand for and supply of blockchain workers in Europe was published. The ESRI also completed work on a more detailed examination of the blockchain industry in Ireland, as part of a Horizon 2020-funded Untangled project. Research into youth unemployment in Europe began under a Cowork4YOUTH award financed by the EEA Norway Grants Fund.

The research carried out for the Shared Island Unit was highly innovative and represented the first all-island analysis of educational provision and productivity. The research on North/South education differences pointed to much higher levels of early school-leaving and lack of further education provision in Northern Ireland. The success of the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) in combatting inequalities in educational opportunity was another key finding of the study.

The publication on productivity demonstrated that a 40 per cent gap in output per worker has emerged between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland over the past twenty years.

8. Macroeconomics

As well as future prospects for the Irish economy, the Macroeconomic research programme addressed issues such as the impact of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine on the performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), links between the macroeconomy and financial sector, the housing market, and the all-Ireland economy. The Macroeconomic division also engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders throughout 2022, including contributing to multiple Oireachtas committees.

The impact of the pandemic on the performance of SMEs, and the extent to which policy interventions mitigated its financial effects, was examined as part of an ongoing joint research programme between the ESRI, Department of Finance and Revenue Commissioners. Work in this area also examined the extent to which the immediate pressure of adjusting to the pandemic changed the incentives and resources that SMEs had available for investment across a range of asset types. This research programme included forthcoming work on the assessment of the impact of the war in Ukraine on the Irish economy and investigating rates of firm entry and exit.

The programme of research with the Department of Finance and Revenue Commissioners also included work to expand the capability of the ESRI's macroeconomic model, COSMO, by developing a financial satellite to the model which will enable future work on economic scenarios to incorporate assessments of financial channels and potential financial stability risks. Research extending the inclusion of the construction sector into the COSMO model was also supported in 2022 by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).

Under the joint programme with the DHLGH, research was produced considering the international evidence and Irish experience with rent stabilisation policies. The ESRI also continued to produce the quarterly Rent Index for the Residential Tenancies Board through 2022. The index is used to determine which local electoral areas are designated as Rent Pressure Zones.

Research under the joint programme with Irish Business and Employers Confederation (Ibec) focussed on the economy of Northern Ireland, the all-island economy and links to the wider UK and global economy. Specifically, a macroeconomic model of Northern Ireland is being developed in collaboration with the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR) in London. In addition, research has focussed on the structure of international goods trade for Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The Quarterly Economic Commentary (QEC) continues to provide analysis of recent economic developments in the Irish economy as well as short-term forecasts for key economic indicators. A strong focus of the commentary in 2022 was on the impact of the war in Ukraine and the effects of high inflation and subsequent monetary policy changes. Additional research was produced on risks to domestic electricity supply, the contribution of the ICT sector in Ireland and the sustainability of corporate taxes. The year 2022 also saw the launch of a Nowcasting model to support the forecasting exercises completed in the commentary. Estimates from the nowcast are published in a monthly series.

9. Migration, Integration and Demography

Research in the area of migration, integration and demography focuses on the integration of migrants, as well as migration trends and policy. In 2022 the main themes were the integration of migrant women, housing and family among migrants, migrants' wages and working conditions, the integration of migrant children, trends in international protection applications, trafficking and undocumented migration.

The ESRI is Ireland's National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Migration Network (EMN), funded by the European Commission and the Department of Justice. In April, in a report on the detection, identification and protection of victims of human trafficking, EMN Ireland authors highlighted current policy challenges, including the role of An Garda Síochána as the sole authority for identification, and inappropriate housing for victims of human trafficking.

In May, a study on responses to undocumented migrants in Ireland was published. It found that the 2022 regularisation scheme could significantly reduce the size of the group, but that policy challenges remain for those who do not regularise, such as ensuring public service firewall provisions, guaranteeing that a person's undocumented migration status will not be shared.

A second strand of research in the area largely falls under the research programme on Integration and Equality, funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

In April, a report under this programme considered housing and family among migrants in Ireland. Using Census 2016 microdata, the report found that migrants are concentrated in the private rented sector and many migrant groups have a much higher risk of overcrowding and homelessness than Irish-born groups.

In November, a study was published that examined factors contributing to the increase in international protection applications in the first half of 2022. The report found that post-COVID-19

catch-up migration, conditions and conflict in countries of origin and the movement of refugees from other EU member states were all likely to have had an impact.

Using the '08 Cohort of the Growing Up in Ireland study, researchers found considerable progress in English language skills among children of migrant parents between ages three and nine, though children with two migrant parents still had lower mean reading scores at age nine compared to children with at least one Irish parent.

Work continued in the integration programme on a project investigating the wages and working conditions of non-Irish nationals in Ireland, using labour force survey data matched to revenue data. The report was published in January 2023. Researchers also started a project comparing migrant integration in Ireland and Northern Ireland for the Department of the Taoiseach. A scoping paper was published in May 2022, outlining research themes, and researchers held an online consultation event in October with migrant representative organisations, North and South, to investigate migrants' experience of the border in Ireland.

Ongoing research on the integration of migrant children and adults was presented at conferences and at the London School of Economics.

10. Social Inclusion and Equality

Research on social inclusion and equality investigates factors influencing access to the material and other resources required to participate in economic and social life, and the processes that lead to inequalities in opportunities and outcomes. In 2022, researchers investigated a diverse range of topics, including poverty and social exclusion, disability supports, (in)equality in children's achievement and their wellbeing, early childhood care and education, equality in public sector recruitment, and gender balance in the financial sector.

In November, in research funded by the National Disability Authority, a paper examined the lived experience of people with disabilities of personal assistance (PA) services in Ireland. Results showed that they wanted a broader range of supports, with some effectively confined to their homes due to a lack of PA hours. There were calls for greater control over when and for what their HSE-funded hours could be used.

A report on 'The changing social worlds of 9-year-olds', funded as part of a research programme with the Department of Equality, Children, Disability, Integration and Youth, found that the family life and day-to-day activities of children continue to be strongly influenced by the socio-economic situation of their families, with evidence of growing inequalities in sports participation and reading for pleasure.

A report funded by Pobal, published in October, examined how poverty persists from one generation to the next in Ireland and other EU countries. It found that, in Ireland, the likelihood of deprivation in adulthood was 35 percentage points higher among individuals who grew up in poverty than among individuals who grew up in 'very good' financial circumstances.

In October, a report from a research programme funded by the Community Foundation for Ireland found that, while income growth has been strong and inclusive, leaving measures of income inequality at their lowest recorded level, rapidly rising private rents have led to a substantial decline in the affordability of housing for young and low-income renters.

Work funded by the Department of the Taoiseach began in spring 2022 comparing early childhood education and care in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and a scoping paper summarising this and other programme topics was published in May 2022. The full report was published in January 2023.

ESRI researchers appeared in September 2022 before an Oireachtas Committee on Gender Equality, in a session discussing the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality regarding pay and workplace conditions, and leadership in politics, public life and the workplace.

A scoping project funded by the Public Appointments Service (PAS) analysed PAS data from 2019 to 2021 to investigate equality and diversity in public sector recruitment, with a view to developing an equality monitoring dashboard.

Ireland's Women in Finance Charter is an initiative to promote greater gender equality in the financial sector. As data partner, the ESRI is analysing data collected from charter signatory firms on gender composition and progress towards gender balance targets. The project is funded by the Banking & Payments Federation Ireland, Ibec, Insurance Ireland, and Irish Funds.

In December 2022 a new programme of research on equality and human rights began, in collaboration with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

11. Tax, Welfare and Pensions

This research area examines the design of the tax, welfare and pensions system, with a focus on the effect it has on redistribution and incentives to work. Much of this work uses the ESRI tax and benefit model SWITCH to simulate the impact of reforms on households.

Research in this area was concentrated around the themes of the cost-of-living crisis and its effect on households, energy poverty, housing supports and the potential for the tax and welfare system to tackle consistent poverty. Each of the outputs mentioned below is part of the Tax, Welfare and Pensions (TWP) work programme, supported by funding from the Departments of Social Protection; Health; Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth; and Finance, as well as through the grant-in aid provided by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

In March, the team published research on the distributional effect of inflation and the cost-of-living package. This research found that inflation – which had been growing particularly fast for food and fuel – was higher for low-income than high-income households. The cost-of-living package was found to cushion the effect of inflation on household incomes, but households in the top half of the income distribution accounted for most of the cost of the reforms.

In May, the ESRI published the report 'Low income renters and housing supports', which examined tenure patterns and rental affordability in Ireland. This research found that housing supports

significantly improved affordability for eligible households but that the targeting of these supports could be improved. The research also highlighted the chronic undersupply of affordable rental accommodation in many areas, particularly for low-income single adults.

In June, researchers presented three papers at the annual Budget Perspectives conference. In an equality budgeting exercise, the report 'The impact of Irish budgetary policy by disability status' estimated how changes to the tax and welfare system between 2008 and 2019 affected households, differentiated by disability status. The paper 'Occupations and Health' examined the link between occupation type and health, with a specific focus on mental health. Finally, 'Earnings-related benefits in Ireland: rationale, costs and work incentives' investigated the distribution effect of moving from flat-rate to earnings-related benefits. This work was cited in draft proposals for the introduction of a new pay-related jobseeker benefit payment, published by the Minister for Social Protection

In October, in their post-Budget briefing, the TWP team showed how changes announced in Budget 2023 would, on average, compensate low-income households for the effects of inflation. However, they cautioned that, once the many temporary measures had expired, low-income households might find themselves worse off as permanent rates of social welfare were indexed by less than inflation.

Research in this area also examined the topic of gender inequality. A paper published in *Social Sciences* showed that there has been relatively stable structural inequality at the top of the wage and earnings distribution in Ireland over the past three decades, pointing towards a persistent glass ceiling. In a methodological contribution, the suitability of the Irish equivalence scale, used in the calculation of headline poverty and inequality indices, was also investigated.

The work of the TWP team has always had an important policy focus. This was reflected in the participation of one of the team members on the Commission on Taxation and Welfare. Members of the team also made seven appearances at Oireachtas committees over the course of the year, giving evidence on topics such as indexation, Budget 2023, inflation, gender equality and enterprise supports.

4. RESEARCH AREA COORDINATORS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioural Science: Professor Pete Lunn 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitiveness, Trade and FDI: Professor Iulia Siedschlag 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education: Professor Selina McCoy and Professor Emer Smyth 	 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy, Environment and Infrastructure: Professor John Curtis and Dr Anne Nolan 	 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Growing Up in Ireland:</i> Professor Emer Smyth 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Quality of Life: Dr Sheelah Connolly and Dr Anne Nolan 	 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Markets and Skills: Professor Seamus McGuinness 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macroeconomics: Professor Martina Lawless and Professor Kieran McQuinn 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration, Integration and Demography: Professor Frances McGinnity and Dr Emma Quinn 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Inclusion and Equality: Professor Frances McGinnity and Bertrand Maître 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxation, Welfare and Pensions: Dr Karina Doorley 	

5. STAFF AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

<p>DIRECTOR</p> <p>Alan Barrett</p>	
<p>ECONOMIC ANALYSIS</p> <p>Adele Bergin</p> <p>Stefano Ceolotto</p> <p>Klavs Ciprikis</p> <p>John Curtis (Head of Division)</p> <p>Kelly de Bruin</p> <p>Anne Devlin</p> <p>Wendy Disch</p> <p>Juan David Duran Vanegas</p> <p>Paul Egan</p> <p>Niall Farrell</p> <p>Tensay Hadush Meles</p> <p>Elish Kelly</p> <p>Eoin Kenny</p> <p>Janez Kren</p> <p>Akhilesh Kumar Verma</p> <p>Martina Lawless</p> <p>Muireann Á. Lynch</p> <p>Seamus McGuinness</p> <p>Kieran McQuinn</p> <p>David Meier</p> <p>Gretta Mohan</p> <p>Michael Mullins</p>	<p>SOCIAL RESEARCH</p> <p>Ylva Andersson</p> <p>Michelle Barrett</p> <p>Aoife Brick</p> <p>Eamonn Carroll</p> <p>Sheelah Connolly</p> <p>Emily Cunniffe</p> <p>Sarah Curristan</p> <p>Merike Darmody</p> <p>Michael Doolan</p> <p>Karina Doorley</p> <p>Katie Duffy</p> <p>Luke Duggan</p> <p>Ellen Flanagan</p> <p>Leonie Hill</p> <p>Aislinn Hoy</p> <p>Harry Humes</p> <p>Theano Kakoulidou</p> <p>Claire Keane</p> <p>James Laurence</p> <p>Ciarán Lavin</p> <p>Pete Lunn</p> <p>Bertrand Maître</p>

Wellington Osawe	Selina McCoy
Conor O'Toole	Fran McGinnity
Paul Redmond	Féidhlim McGowan
Eva Shiel	Keire Murphy
Iulia Siedschlag	Anne Nolan
Rachel Slaymaker	Alexandros Papadopoulos
Constantine Spandagos	Michał Polakowski
Elisa Staffa	Olga Poluektova
Miguel Angel Tovar Reaños	Emma Quinn
Adele Whelan	Mark Regan
Aykut Mert Yakut	Barra Roantree
	Deirdre Robertson
	Helen Russell (Head of Division)
	Anne Sheridan
	Emer Smyth
	Stefanie Sprong
	Amy Stapleton
	Shane Timmons
	Dora Tuda
	Brendan Walsh
	Keyu Ye
GROWING UP IN IRELAND	CORPORATE RESOURCES
Elizabeth Burke	Eleanor Bannerton (Operations and Strategy Manager)
Caroline Goodwin	Claire Buckley (HR Manager)
Eoin Keogh	Sarah Burns
Eoin McNamara	Bernice Clancy
Aoife Murphy	Liz Coyle

Aisling Murray	Stephen Cunningham
Amanda Quail	Liana D'Emidio
Bernadette Ryan	Jennifer Downey
Fionnuala Waters	Julianne Flynn
	David Gorman
	Adrienne Jinks
	Rachel Joyce
	Francis McEvoy
	Josh Nevin
	Clare O'Neill
	Charles O'Regan (Head of Finance)
	Fiona O'Sullivan
	Fiona Owens
	Fionnuala Quinn
	Stephen Sammon
	Jeanne Sutton
	LeAnnie Wilson

6. ESRI COUNCIL – BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Sean O’Driscoll, President and Chairperson

Sean O’Driscoll was appointed President and Chairperson of the ESRI on 27 May 2020. He joined the Council of the ESRI in February 2017. He is a former Chair and Chief Executive of the Glen Dimplex Group, a former Partner in KPMG, and a member of the Trilateral Commission and of the Ireland 2040 Delivery Board. He is a former Director of Allied Irish Banks, of the National Competitiveness Council of Ireland and of a number of other government-appointed advisory groups. Mr O’Driscoll is the recipient of an OBE and a Légion d’Honneur Award.

Alan Barrett, Director, ESRI

Alan Barrett joined the ESRI in 1994 and became Director of the Institute in July 2015, at which point he joined the Council. During his time with the Institute, he was seconded to the Department of Finance (2001–2003) and to the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) at Trinity College Dublin (2011–2013). He was a member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council from 2011 to 2015. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy, a Research Fellow with IZA (Institute for Labor Economics) in Bonn, Germany and an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland. He is also a member (ex officio) of the Climate Change Advisory Council.

Kary Hayward, Professor of Political Sociology, Queen’s University Belfast

Professor Katy Hayward joined the Council of the ESRI in September 2021. She holds a Chair in the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work at Queen’s University Belfast, where she is also a Fellow in the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute and co-Director of the Centre for International Borders Research. Katy is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Sandra McNally, Professor of Economics, University of Surrey

Professor Sandra McNally joined the Council of the ESRI in September 2021. She is a Professor of Economics at the University of Surrey and Director of the Centre for Vocational Education Research at the London School of Economics.

Gabriel Makhoul, Central Bank of Ireland

Gabriel Makhoul joined the Council of the ESRI in 2020. He is Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland, chairs the Central Bank Commission, is a member of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank and of the European Systemic Risk Board, and is Ireland’s Alternate Governor at the International Monetary Fund. Before joining the Central Bank of Ireland, he was Secretary to the New Zealand Treasury and the government’s Chief Economic and Financial Adviser. In addition, he was New Zealand’s Alternate Governor at the World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Asian Development Bank, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He was also co-chair of the Trans-Tasman Banking Council. Previously, he worked in the UK civil service where his roles ranged from policy on domestic and international tax issues to large-scale operational delivery.

He has also chaired the OECD's Committee on Fiscal Affairs and was responsible for the UK's Government Banking Service.

David Moloney, Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

David Moloney joined the Council of the ESRI in November 2010. He has been the Acting Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform since January 2021. He is head of the Labour Market and Enterprise Division of the Department, with responsibility for various expenditure areas including Social Protection, Housing, Enterprise and Agriculture, and for the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES).

Rónán Murphy, former Senior Partner, PwC and current board member, Davy, ICON plc and Greencoat Renewables plc

Rónán Murphy joined the Council of the ESRI in February 2017. He is a non-executive director of Davy and ICON plc and Chair of Greencoat Renewables plc. He is also Chairperson of Business in the Community Ireland. Mr Murphy was previously Senior Partner of PwC Ireland, a position he was elected to in 2007 and re-elected to for a further four-year term in July 2011. He joined PwC in 1980 and was admitted to the partnership in 1992. In 1995, he joined the firm's Leadership Team and held a number of operational leadership roles, before being appointed as partner in charge of the firm's assurance practice in 2003, a position he held for four years. Mr Murphy was a member of the PwC EMEA Leadership Board from 2010 to 2015. He completed a Bachelor of Commerce and Master's in Business Studies at University College Dublin before qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1982. He is a founding member of the British Irish Chamber of Commerce.

Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, President, University of Galway

Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh joined the Council of the ESRI in September 2021. He became the 13th president of the University of Galway in January 2018. Previously, he was Professor of Accounting and Dean of Business at UCD.

Anne O'Leary, Meta

Anne O'Leary joined the Council of the ESRI in May 2022. She is currently Head of Meta Ireland and Vice-President of Meta's Global Business Group, EMEA. She was previously CEO of Vodafone Ireland and President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce. She is also on the boards of Meta Platforms Ireland Ltd, WhatsApp Ireland, IBEC and Greencore, and was the former Chair of GOAL Global.

Rowena Pecchenino, Professor of Economics, Maynooth University

Professor Rowena Pecchenino joined the Council of the ESRI in February 2017. She is Professor of Economics at Maynooth University. After earning her PhD from the University of Wisconsin, she joined the Department of Economics at Michigan State University, where she went on to be Professor and Department Chair. At Maynooth University she has served as Head of the Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. She has been a member of the Irish Research Council and the Department of Health and Children Expert Group on Resource Allocation and Financing in the Health Sector, and has just stepped down as President of the Irish Economic Association. She is Section Chair of Scholars at Risk Network – Ireland. She has published and continues to conduct research in a number of distinct fields in economics, from

defence economics to Irish economic history to the conjunction of economics and theology. She has published widely in journals such as the *American Economic Review*, *The Economic Journal*, and the *Journal of Public Economics*.

Orlaigh Quinn, Secretary General of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

As Secretary General of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Dr Orlaigh Quinn advises Government and leads the Department and its 16 offices and agencies in promoting the creation of high-quality and sustainable full employment; by championing enterprise, supporting and incentivising a competitive and innovative research and enterprise base, negotiating international trade agreements, and promoting fair and competitive employment and markets. A career civil servant, she has held leadership positions across several public bodies, spearheading reform of Ireland's public and civil service at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, and as Head of Corporate and Head of National Pensions in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. She has also led on EU and international affairs and served as an expert adviser on employment and social policy at the European Commission. She is a former Visiting Research Fellow of Trinity College Dublin and holds a Master's in Public Management and a Doctorate in Governance from Queen's University Belfast. She is the author of two books on public policy topics.

Patrick Rabbitte, former Minister and former leader of the Labour Party, Chairperson of Tusla – Child and Family Agency

Patrick Rabbitte joined the Council of the ESRI in February 2017. He is a former Irish Labour Party politician who served as Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources from 2011 to 2014. He was Leader of the Labour Party from 2002 to 2007 and Minister of State for Commerce, Science and Technology from 1994 to 1997. He is Chairperson of Tusla – Child and Family Agency.

7. WHITAKER PATRONS AND CORPORATE MEMBERS

The ESRI produces independent research that provides Irish policymakers with better understanding of the economic and social environment that shapes Ireland. One of the ESRI's objectives is to ensure that it has a robust revenue stream to finance valuable independent research initiatives in social and economic fields that will have a lasting impact on Irish society. In 2022, we continued to develop our membership programme and membership revenue grew significantly throughout the year. This growth is a testament to the hard work and reputation of the ESRI team, and we would like to extend our gratitude to the following organisations and other members for their valuable support.

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ISSN 2990-8086.