

Review of Research 2023



AN INSTITUTE
UM THAIGHDE
EACNAMÁÍOCHTA
AGUS SÓISIALTA
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Informed policy
for a better Ireland

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 representatives drawn from 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, NDP Delivery and Reform to support the scientific and public interest elements of the Institute's activities; the grant accounted for an average of 26 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, competitive research programmes, and membership fees.

Further information is available at www.esri.ie.



Contents

Introduction	2
The Year in Numbers.....	4
Events	5
Behavioural Science	7
Competitiveness, Trade and FDI.....	17
Education	20
Energy, Environment and Infrastructure	25
Health and Quality of Life	30
Labour Market and Skills.....	33
Macroeconomics	37
Migration, Integration and Demography.....	42
Social Inclusion and Equality	46
Tax, Welfare and Pensions.....	52
External Commitments of Research Staff.....	57
External Reviewers of ESRI Publications in 2022 and 2023	62
Whitaker Patrons and Corporate Members.....	65



Introduction

The ESRI's annual Review of Research is an opportunity for us to describe the work of the Institute as we strive to achieve our mission which is 'to provide evidence to inform policymaking and public debate'.

The ESRI performs a unique role in Irish public life by producing high-quality, independent research that serves as a key resource for evidence-informed policymaking. The extent of public policy challenges and the need for evidence were clear throughout 2023. Housing supply was well below estimated need resulting in chronic shortages. Inequalities persisted, particularly among people with disabilities and lone parents, as evidenced in our research. Our Quarterly Economic Commentary documented inflation and cost-of-living challenges throughout 2023, with some signs of relief emerging in the latter part of the year.

In the pages of this review, you will find details of our work in 2023 so it is not necessary for me to provide a comprehensive overview here. However, I will refer to a limited number of activities.

First, our work on all-island issues gained momentum in 2023 through our joint research programme with the Shared Island Unit in the Department of the Taoiseach and with Ibec. We produced important work on issues such as childcare, migration, education and social and political attitudes. We also held a joint conference with Queen's University in Belfast to discuss our Shared Island research on productivity levels in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Second, our work on housing garnered notable interest. Researchers across the Institute produced reports on housing affordability, rental prices, Rent Pressure Zones, and the relationship between housing adequacy and child outcomes, to name a few.

Third, over the years, the Institute has specialised in developing statistical models that are estimated, validated and maintained to answer questions on economic and social processes. Through 2023, we continued to draw on our macroeconomic model (COSMO) and our tax-welfare model (SWITCH) in analysing a range of policy challenges. We also continued to develop our I3E model, which jointly models climate and economic variables and our Hippocrates model of the healthcare system.

Lastly, in 2023, we were awarded an Athena Swan Bronze Award for our commitment to gender equality. We are pleased to be the first research institute in Ireland to achieve this award.

Undoubtedly, solving policy problems is a multifaceted and difficult task. I believe the ESRI is among the best-placed organisations to help policymakers for two reasons. First, our commitment to academic rigour distinguishes us from others. A rigorous peer review process guarantees the quality

of the Institute's research output and we publish work only when it meets the highest standards. Our researchers also publish in international peer-reviewed journals, thereby demonstrating that our work measures up to top international standards.

Second, the Institute remains independent, with our work free of any expressed ideology or political position. We publish all research that reaches the appropriate academic standard, irrespective of its findings or who funds the research.

For these reasons, the ESRI can be relied on to provide only solid evidence in a world where the lines between facts and opinion are increasingly blurred and disinformation is readily available. We will continue to support informed public debate by promoting the importance of high-quality research, making our research widely available and communicating the results in a variety of public forums.

Before concluding, I want to thank our funders, our Whitaker Patrons, our corporate members and our research partners for their valuable support. I would like to acknowledge in particular the grant provided by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. Together, this support allows us to continue to pursue the goals of 'informed policy for a better Ireland'.

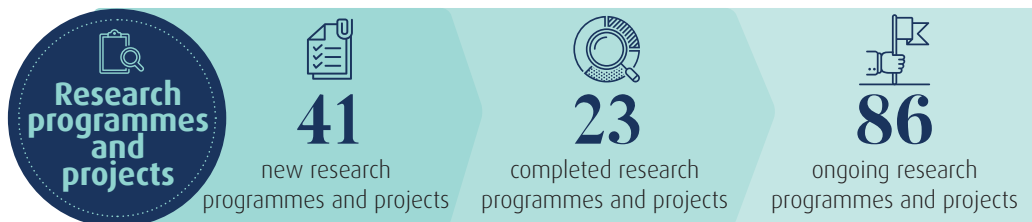
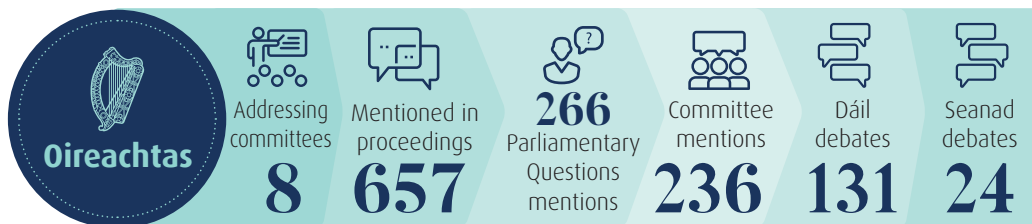
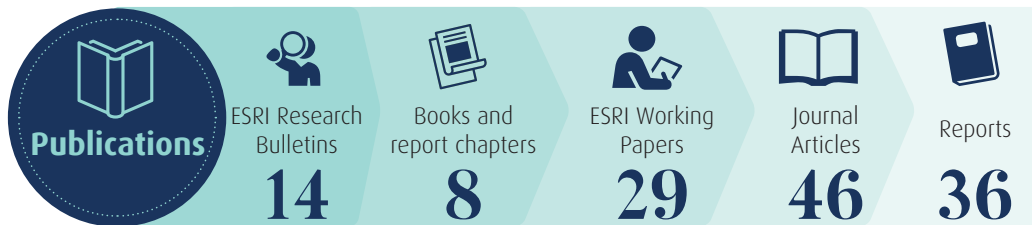


Professor Alan Barrett
Director of the ESRI



**the ESRI can be
relied on to provide
only solid evidence
in a world where
the lines between
facts and opinion are
increasingly blurred
and disinformation is
readily available.**

The Year in Numbers





Events

Conferences and events help us engage with wider audiences and allow us to build stronger relationships with policymakers, funders, other members of the research community, the media and civil society.

Most of our 2023 events were related to report launches and dissemination of ongoing and previous research. The year also saw the reintroduction of ESRI monthly research seminars where we invite external researchers to present their work.

Some of the events listed below were recorded and can be watched on our YouTube channel. We also have the presentations slides available on our website.

JANUARY

Report launches

- Early childhood education and care in Ireland and Northern Ireland (online)
- Wages and working conditions of non-Irish nationals in Ireland (online)

FEBRUARY

Report launches

- Housing and Child Outcomes (Dublin)

ESRI Research Seminar

- How to build public support for environmental policy, Dr Linus Mattauch (Dublin)

MARCH

Report launches

- Comparing migrant integration in Ireland and Northern Ireland (Dublin)

Conferences and public events

- New Insights on Migrant Integration in Ireland (Dublin)
- Productivity levels in Ireland and Northern Ireland (Belfast)

APRIL

Report launches

- Public attitudes to disability in Ireland: Evidence from experiments (online)

MAY

Conferences and public events

- 11th MaREI Climate & Energy Research Seminar (Dublin)
- Open day for TCD/ESRI MSc in Economic Policy (Dublin)
- Employment Opportunities for Young People (Dublin)

JUNE

Report launches

- Budget Perspectives 2024 (Dublin)
- Problem gambling: A narrative review of important policy-relevant issues (Dublin)

Conferences and public events

- Fuel Poverty conference (Dublin)
- Information session: MSc in Economic Policy (Dublin)

ESRI Research Seminar

- Longer-term structural transitions and short-term macroeconomic adjustment: quantitative implications for the global financial system, Professor Warwick McKibbin (Dublin)

JULY

Report launches

- Pandemic unemployment and social disadvantage in Ireland (Dublin)

- Structure of international goods trade for Ireland and Northern Ireland (Dublin)

SEPTEMBER

Report launches

- Student mobility in Ireland and Northern Ireland (Dublin)
- Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland (Dublin)

Conferences and public events

- Stakeholder experience of climate impacts in Ireland (Dublin)

OCTOBER

Conferences and public events

- Post-Budget Briefing (Dublin)

Report launches

- Measures of problem gambling, gambling behaviours and perceptions of gambling in Ireland (Dublin)

NOVEMBER

ESRI Research Seminar

- Beyond Attraction – Does investment promotion work for FDI retention and expansion?, Riccardo Crescenzi (Dublin)

Conferences and public events:

- Why Do People Do That?! Lessons from 10 Years of the ESRI's Behavioural Research Unit (Dublin)
- The 2023 Geary lecture – Towards a Normative Partnership in Analysing and Responding to 'Globalisation from Below', President Michael D. Higgins (Dublin)

Report launches

- Social and political attitudes in Ireland and Northern Ireland (online)
- Civic and political engagement among young adults in Ireland (online)

DECEMBER

ESRI Research Seminar

- Labour Supply Response to Windfall Gains, Geoff Kenny (Dublin)

Report launches:

- EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2022: Ireland (online)

Conferences and public events:

- The Euro Area Outlook, Philip Lane, Chief Economist, European Central Bank (Dublin)
- Book launch: Post-school Pathways of Migrant-Origin Youth in Europe (Dublin)

“
The year
also saw the
reintroduction
of ESRI
monthly
research
seminars
where we
invite external
researchers to
present their
work.”



Prof Alan Barrett (ESRI, Director), Dr Karina Doorley (ESRI) and John McCarthy (Chief Economist, Department of Finance) at Budget Perspectives 2024. Budget Perspectives is an annual conference to discuss policy issues related to the national Budget.



(L to R) Anne Marie Caulfield (CEO, Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland), James Browne TD (Minister of State at the Department of Justice), Prof Alan Barrett (ESRI, Director) and Prof Pete Lunn (ESRI) at the launch of the report 'Problem gambling: A narrative review of important policy-relevant issues'



Prof Alan Barrett (ESRI, Director) and Minister Simon Harris TD at the launch of the ESRI report 'Student mobility in Ireland and Northern Ireland'



(L to R) Minister Simon Harris TD, Anne Barrington (Chair, ESRI/Shared Island joint research programme), Prof Emer Smyth (ESRI), Dr Merike Darmody (ESRI), Prof Alan Barrett (ESRI, Director)



Dr Frances McGinnity (ESRI) giving a keynote talk on the preliminary findings from the Public Appointments Service's equality monitoring data review.



(L-R) Sean O'Driscoll (ESRI Chair), Prof Pete Lunn (ESRI), Minister Paschal Donohoe TD, Prof Helen Russell (ESRI) and Prof Alan Barrett (ESRI, Director). Minister Paschal Donohoe TD visited the ESRI to discuss the Institute's work funded under the Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery & Reform



Prof Alan Barrett (ESRI, Director) and Prof Philip Lane (Chief Economist at the European Central Bank). Prof Lane delivered a talk at the ESRI titled 'The Euro Area Outlook'



(L-R) Prof Alan Barrett (ESRI, Director), President Michael D. Higgins and Sean O'Driscoll (ESRI Chair) at the ESRI Geary Lecture at Áras an Uachtaráin. President Higgins delivered a speech titled "Towards a Normative Partnership in Analysing and Responding to 'Globalisation from Below'"

Research Areas





Behavioural Science



Research Area Coordinator:

Pete Lunn

Researchers working in this area in 2023:

Ylva Andersson, Ciarán Lavin, Lucie Martin, Féidhlim McGowan, Diarmaid Ó Ceallaigh, Alexandros Papadopoulos, Olga Poluektova, Deirdre Robertson, Shane Timmons.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Study using new methods found rates of problem gambling are higher than previously thought.
- Experiment showed how beliefs about obesity are linked to support for different policies.
- Experiment found behaviourally informed letters could improve radon testing uptake.

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 was funded by the **Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland** to measure the rates of problem gambling in Ireland. The BRU carried out an anonymous online survey of a nationally representative sample of the population and found that rates of problem gambling are around 10 times higher than previous studies using face-to-face methods have found. The results were corroborated by aggregating expenditures for comparison with industry revenue figures.

In work funded by the **Department of Health**, the BRU undertook a diagnostic survey experiment to compare public beliefs about obesity in Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States to those of experts. The study found large differences between public and expert beliefs, with the public less likely to recognise the impacts of the obesogenic environment on obesity. Beliefs about obesity influenced which policies people thought would be effective. As part of the same study, an experiment found that giving information about the historical rising rates of obesity moved public and expert beliefs closer to each other.

The BRU undertook a field trial funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** to test whether behaviourally informed communications could increase the number of households taking radon tests. The study sent different versions of a letter to households in areas at high risk of radon exposure. The behaviourally informed version of the standard EPA letter increased uptake by 50 per cent. The results can be used to inform public health communications with households and show the potential for



An anonymous online survey of a nationally representative sample of the population found that rates of problem gambling are around 10 times higher than previous studies using face-to-face methods have found



using behavioural science techniques to help mitigate environmental risks.

Other BRU work in 2023 included: investigating, for the **National Screening Service**, how well the cervical screening materials inform those eligible to participate, and designing supplementary materials to aid comprehension of the screening system; designing a follow-up study to investigate why experts and the public differ in beliefs about obesity, for the **Department of Health**; a diagnostic study of farmer beliefs and behaviour around biosecurity, for the **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine**; a survey experiment on

public attitudes towards disability policy, for the **National Disability Authority**; designing and testing a tool to try to increase switching and shopping around for financial products, for the **Department of Finance**; experiments investigating communications around active travel schemes, for the **National Transport Authority**; testing a heating controls app in a nationwide field trial in research funded by the **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland**; investigating how the public perceive environmental risks, for the **EPA**; and running an experiment to test the effects of greenwashing on consumer choice, for the **EPA**.



Journal Articles

[A scoping review and behavioural analysis of factors underlying overuse of antimicrobials](#), *JAC-Antimicrobial Resistance*, Vol. 5, Issue 3, June 2023, Oxford University Press, Oxford, Olga Poluektova, Deirdre Robertson, Aisling Rafferty, Robert Cunney, Pete Lunn

[Ableism differs by disability, gender and social context: Evidence from vignette experiments](#), *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 2023, Wiley, Shane Timmons, Frances McGinnity, Eamonn Carroll

[Behavioural evidence on COVID-19 vaccine uptake](#), *Public Health*, Vol. 227, February 2024, pp. 49-53, Elsevier, Deirdre Robertson, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn

[Behaviourally-informed household communications increase uptake of radon tests in a randomised controlled trial](#), *Scientific Reports*, 13, 20401 (2023), SpringerNature, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn

[How consumer and provider responses to nutritional labelling interact: An online shopping experiment with implications for policy](#), *Food Policy*, Vol. 121, November 2023, Elsevier, Deirdre Robertson, Ylva Andersson, Pete Lunn

[Is the effect of menu energy labelling on consumer behaviour equitable? A pooled analysis of twelve randomized control experiments](#), *Appetite*, Vol. 182, March 2023, Elsevier, Eric Robinson, Emma Boyland, Paul Christiansen, Ann F. Haynos, Andrew Jones, Una Masic, Deirdre Robertson, Katy Tapper, Lucile Marty

[Looking beyond time preference: Testing potential causes of low willingness to pay for fuel economy improvements](#), *Resource and Energy Economics*, Vol. 75, October 2023, Elsevier, Féidhlim McGowan, Eleanor Denny, Pete Lunn

[The distributive effects of administrative burdens on decision-making](#), *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration*, Vol. 6 Issue 1, 2023, APSA, Lucie Martin, Liam Delaney, Orla Doyle

[Using information provision and interactive risk maps to motivate testing for radon](#), *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, Vol. 89, August 2023, Elsevier, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn



Reports and Other Publications

[Measures of problem gambling, gambling behaviours and perceptions of gambling in Ireland](#), ESRI Research Series, 169, Diarmaid Ó Ceallaigh, Shane Timmons, Deirdre Robertson, Pete Lunn

[Problem gambling: A narrative review of important policy-relevant issues](#), ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series, 119, Diarmaid Ó Ceallaigh, Shane Timmons, Deirdre Robertson, Pete Lunn



Chapters in Books and Reports

[Financial consumers, digital interfaces and decision aids](#), Chapter 9, R. Viale, S. Mousavi, U. Filotto, and B. Alemanni (eds.), *Artificial Intelligence and Financial Behaviour*, p.174-191, 2023, Edward Elgar, Pete Lunn

[Using social and behavioral science to support COVID-19 pandemic response](#), Zimmermann, K.F. (eds.), *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*, Springer, Cham, Veronica Cucchiari, Pete Lunn, Deirdre Robertson, Riccardo Viale

[Ten years of Ireland's Behavioural Research Unit](#), Sanders, M., Bhanot, S., O'Flaherty, S. (eds.), *Behavioral Public Policy in a Global Context*, chapter, pp. 25-37, Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, Pete Lunn



ESRI Research Bulletins

[Monthly payment plans increase willingness to pay for energy efficient vehicles](#), Féidhlim McGowan, Eleanor Denny, Pete Lunn

[New EPA Radon Risk Map Motivates Household Testing](#), Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn



ESRI Working Papers

[An experimental test of a greenwashing inoculation intervention: Effects on identification, trust and intentions](#), Shane Timmons, Ava Whelan, Clare Kelly

[Testing a Behaviourally Informed Product Comparison Tool for Private Health Insurance](#), Olga Poluektova, Martina Barjaková, Pete Lunn

[Behaviourally-informed household communications increase uptake of radon tests in a randomised controlled trial](#), Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn

[Using behavioural science to design and implement active travel infrastructure: A narrative review of evidence](#), Shane Timmons, Ylva Andersson, Féidhlim McGowan, Pete Lunn

[Comparing expert and public perceptions of the obesity epidemic in 3 countries](#), Deirdre Robertson, Ylva Andersson, Ciarán Lavin, Pete Lunn

[Who switches and why? A diagnostic survey of retail financial services in Ireland](#), Féidhlim McGowan, Alexandros Papadopoulos, Pete Lunn

[Status Quo Bias Impedes Active Travel Policy by Changing the Process of Opinion Formation](#), Ylva Andersson, Féidhlim McGowan, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn



(L to R) Dr Shane Timmons (ESRI), Prof Pete Lunn (ESRI), Anne Marie Caulfield (Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland), Prof Helen Russell (ESRI) and Diarmaid Ó Ceallaigh (ESRI) at the launch of the report 'Measures of problem gambling, gambling behaviours and perceptions of gambling in Ireland'.



Prof Pete Lunn, head of the Behavioural Research Unit, presenting at the EPA's Circular Economy conference



Competitiveness, Trade and FDI



Research Area Coordinator:

Iulia Siedschlag

Researchers working in this area in 2023:

Eamonn Carroll, Mattia Di Ubaldo, Juan Durán,
Janez Kren, Martina Lawless, Selina McCoy,
Gretta Mohan



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 2023, research in this area addressed the following overarching themes: attractiveness to foreign direct investment (FDI) and associated economic, social and spatial effects; trade impacts of Brexit; artificial intelligence, digital technologies and productivity; digitalisation and sustainability across enterprises.

Research funded by the **Department of Finance** explored the potential effects of the global minimum corporate tax rate on Ireland's attractiveness to FDI and the wider economy. Taken together, the results of this analysis suggest that the effects of the global minimum corporate tax rate on new FDI and FDI-related new jobs in Ireland in the medium and long term are likely to be negative but not sizeable. Ireland's attractiveness to FDI could be maintained and increased through other factors that influence the location choice of FDI, such as public and private investment in R&D, adult life-long learning, investment in housing, and broadband access.

Research funded by the **European Commission's Horizon Europe Programme** found that inward FDI and foreign-owned firms with dominant market shares – international superstar firms – contributed over and above other factors to increased wage inequality between firms across European regions. It is suggested that policy measures aimed at enhancing spillovers from highly innovative and productive international superstar firms to domestic firms could help to achieve a more equal income distribution across firms and mitigate potential unfavourable economic and social effects associated with increased income inequality.

As part of the joint research programme with the **Irish Business and Employers Confederation (Ibec)** on the all-island economy, a detailed exploration of goods

trade for Ireland and Northern Ireland was undertaken. This research examined the broad international flows for both economies and placed the structure of cross-border trade on the island of Ireland within this broader context.

Research on understanding the impact of Brexit on trade between the UK and EU found a sharp decline in trade from the UK to the EU and significant but smaller reductions in trade from the EU to the UK relative to a no-Brexit counterfactual. The research examined the broader impact on the UK's global exports, which have grown relatively more slowly than those of the EU, and the importance of taking into account breaks in the measurement of trade flows concurrent with the UK's exit from the EU Single Market and Customs Union.



The effects of the global minimum corporate tax rate on new FDI and FDI-related new jobs in Ireland in the medium and long term are likely to be negative but not sizeable.

Research on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and firm productivity indicated that the propensity of firms to adopt AI was positively associated with firm size, industry market share and the adoption of other digital technologies. Estimates indicate that using AI and the intensity of using AI are positively associated with firm productivity over and above other capital inputs. This research was presented in November at an **OECD Workshop on AI, Digital Technologies and Economic Outcomes**.

Research funded by the **Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)** and the **Department of Environment, Climate and Communications** found that digitalisation was associated with a higher propensity of enterprises to adopt ICT-related sustainability practices over and above other factors such as enterprise size, employing ICT specialists, and investing in intangible assets. Further results indicated that enterprises using AI were more likely to adopt ICT-related sustainability practices. This research started in 2023 and results are expected to be published in 2024.



Journal Articles

The Effects of the European Single Market on Attractiveness to Foreign Direct Investment, *EconPol Forum*, Vol. 24, September, 5/2023, pp. 28-31, CESifo, Iulia Siedschlag



ESRI Working Papers

Inward foreign direct investment, superstar firms and wage inequality between firms: Evidence from European regions, Juan Duran Vanegas, Iulia Siedschlag

The impact of the global tax reforms on Ireland's corporate investment and the wider economy, Iulia Siedschlag, Robert McLoughlin (Department of Finance), Daire De Hora (Department of Finance)



Research on understanding the impact of Brexit on trade between the UK and EU found a sharp decline in trade from the UK to the EU and significant but smaller reductions in trade from the EU to the UK relative to a no-Brexit counterfactual.



Education



Research Area Coordinators:

Selina McCoy and Emer Smyth

Researchers working in this area in 2023:

Adele Bergin, Anne Devlin, Eamonn Carroll, Merike Darmody, Seamus McGuinness, Elish Kelly, Gretta Mohan, Juan Duran Vanegas, Iulia Siedschlag, Keyu Ye, Adele Whelan

Education researchers are centrally involved in a range of comparative European studies, and one researcher is the Irish National Expert at the **European Commission** Independent Experts on Education and Training.

Work drew to a close on the PIONEERED study, a **Horizon 2020**-funded project on educational inequality across Europe, with research focusing on school segregation, a comparative analysis of shadow education, and a review of policy.

Work continued 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.

Finally, work began on EFFECT, a four-year **Horizon Europe**-funded study, focused on enhancing the quality of education across the EU. ESRI researchers will focus on addressing inequality in educational achievement and the role of digital technologies in education.

Comparative research undertaken for the **Shared Island unit at the Department of the Taoiseach** highlighted similar policy challenges in Ireland and Northern Ireland around affordability of early years provision and the employment conditions for staff. Social inequalities in cognitive and socio-emotional outcomes were equally prevalent among young children in the two jurisdictions. A paper, based on Shared Island research, pointed to the role of educational selection in producing lower levels of intergenerational educational mobility in Northern Ireland than in Ireland.

Another **Shared Island unit**-funded study, published in September, indicated the modest scale of cross-border mobility for higher education students. It highlighted the way in which entry requirements appeared to disadvantage students from Northern Ireland, providing an evidence base for current reform of the process. Also on higher education, a paper based on a mixed-methods study showed the importance of supervisor support

in encouraging international students' engagement in postgraduate education.

A book on post-school pathways among migrant-origin youth, published in May, brought together the work of leading international scholars to examine the influence of different education systems on the nature of transitions to higher education and the labour market. The book highlighted the need for host countries to put in place comprehensive policies to counter ethnic inequalities and discrimination in their education and labour market systems while facilitating and supporting immigrant youth in pursuing their post-school pathways.



**Ireland's
undergraduate
entry requirements
appeared to
disadvantage
students from
Northern Ireland,
providing an
evidence base for
current reform of
the process**



OTHER RESEARCH

Work was completed for the **National Council for Special Education** on a large-scale study looking at the post-school pathways of young people with special educational needs. The results will be important in shaping provision for students with additional needs in special and mainstream schools and across the post-school landscape.

Work was also completed on a mixed-method study, for the **Joint Managerial Body for Voluntary Secondary Schools**, which looks at what the schools provide to students and the community across different contexts and settings. A new mixed-methods study was begun for **Tusla Education Support Service** reviewing the School Completion Programme, which provides supports for children and young people at risk of school disengagement.



Journal Articles

(No) time to engage: an exploratory mixed-method study into factors predicting the engagement of postgraduate research students in Ireland, *Higher Education*, 2023, Springer, Daniel Guigui, Daniel Faas, Merike Darmody, Siobhán Nic Fhlannchadha

Preserving ethos: facilitating factors and barriers for implementing ethos in primary schools in the Republic of Ireland, *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education*, 2023, Routledge, London, Aon Foley, Daniel Faas, Merike Darmody

A whole education approach to inclusive education: An integrated model to guide planning, policy and provision, *Education Sciences*, Vol. 13, No. 9, 959, 2023, MDPI, Neil Kenny, Selina McCoy, James O'Higgins Norman



Reports and Other Publications

Student mobility in Ireland and Northern Ireland, ESRI Research Series, 166, Emer Smyth, Merike Darmody



Chapters in Books and Reports

Post-school expectations and outcomes among migrant-origin young people in Ireland, chapter 3, Merike Darmody and Emer Smyth (eds.), *Post-school Pathways of Migrant-Origin Youth in Europe*, Routledge, London, Frances McGinnity, Merike Darmody, Emer Smyth

Perceptions of immigrant parental engagement in primary schools in Ireland, chapter 8, Halleli Pinson, Nihad Bunar and Dympna Devine (eds.), *Research Handbook on Migration and Education*, p. 111-129, Edward Elgar, Dympna Devine, Merike Darmody, Emer Smyth



ESRI Research Bulletins

Career decision-making among young people in Ireland, Emer Smyth



ESRI Working Papers

Personal assistance services for disabled people in Ireland: they meet the criteria for supports but we don't have the resources to provide the services, Selina McCoy, Eamonn Carroll



(L to R) Prof Selina McCoy and Dr Eamonn Carroll at the National Association of Boards of Management in Special Education (NABMSE) conference



Prof Emer Smyth delivering key findings at the launch of the report 'Student mobility in Ireland and Northern Ireland'



Simon Harris TD delivering the open address at the launch of 'Student mobility in Ireland and Northern Ireland'



Energy, Environment and Infrastructure



Research Area Coordinators:

John Curtis and Anne Nolan

Researchers working in this area in 2023:

Marta Alvaro-Taus, Seraphim Dempsey, Kelly De Bruin, Çağaçan Değer, Andrés Estevez, Niall Farrell, Tensay Hadush Meles, Aislinn Hoy, Pranav Kakkar, Clement Kweku Kyei, Kirsten Everett, Muireann Lynch, David Meier, Gretta Mohan, Samuel Mc Ardle, Stefano Ceolotto, Miguel Tovar Reaños, Constantine Spandagos, Shane Timmons, Anita Vollmer, Brendan Walsh, Aykut Mert Yakut



Energy and climate research is funded by the **Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)**, **Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform**, **Department of Finance**, **Commission for Regulation of Utilities**, **ESB**, **European Horizon**, **Gas Networks Ireland**, **EirGrid**, **SSE Ireland**, **Energia**, **Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)** and the **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland**.

Research related to 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 **DECC** and the **Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)**.

The climate research team continued technical development of their analytical model, Ireland Environment, Energy and Economy (I3E), to facilitate further analysis of climate policies. Research output included assessments of the impact of removing fossil-fuel subsidies, projecting similar emissions reduction as envisaged by the carbon tax trajectory reaching €100 by 2030. Work has continued that provides underpinning economic and energy emissions projections supporting the EPA's emissions projections reporting to both the EU and the UN.

ESRI's energy research spans topics such as residential energy efficiency, energy poverty and electricity markets. Research in 2023 included investigation of the energy system scale implications of switching to hydrogen using supply-chain modelling, and identification of the likely timescales of cost-effective deployment of hydrogen and associated policy interventions.

The cost-of-living crisis was prominent in energy research during 2023; several studies examined aspects of fuel poverty, including investigating the equity effects of different types of energy affordability policy interventions. Research examining barriers

to residential energy efficiency renovations found a weak association between financial literacy and fuel poverty across several metrics.

Work continued on the **EPA** research programme on environmental economics in 2023, covering 14 projects in behavioural science, health and climate. As part of the programme, the ESRI continued to provide evidence for the National Radon Control



The cost-of-living crisis was prominent in energy research during 2023; several studies examined aspects of fuel poverty, including investigating the equity effects of different types of energy affordability policy interventions

Strategy, publishing a number of papers relating to radon testing, communication with householders and protective measures for new homes.

Other research from the EPA programme, released in October 2023, showed that participation in the Clean Air Together citizen science project in Dublin led to a significant increase in awareness of air pollution among participants. A project on the health effects of climate change, funded by the **Climate Health Alliance**, continued into 2023. The water research programme, in collaboration with **DHLGH**, examined homeowners' attitudes and motivations with respect to domestic wastewater treatment system maintenance.

Research in the electronic communications research programme, funded by **DECC** and **ComReg**, examined excessive Internet use among adolescents; it found that spending time home alone is a specific risk factor but that regularly playing games or sports together with parents is a protective factor.

This research area hosted seven public conferences and workshops during 2023, including giving evidence to the Oireachtas Committee on Budgetary Oversight.



(L to R) Dr Muireann Lynch (ESRI), Javier Palencia (UNED, Spain), Minister Ossian Smyth TD (Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform and at the Department of Environment, Climate and Communication), Prof Alan Barrett (ESRI, Director), Dr Miguel Angel Tovar Reaños (ESRI) at an ESRI conference on tackling fuel poverty



Journal Articles

[How well do building energy performance certificates predict heat loss?](#), *Energy Efficiency*, Vol. 16, No. 74, 2023, Springer, Tensay Hadush Meles, Niall Farrell, John Curtis

[Keep out the cold: An analysis of potential gaps in fuel poverty policies in Ireland](#), *Energy Research & Social Science*, Vol. 98, April 2023, Elsevier, Arya Pillai, Miguel Angel Tovar Reaños, John Curtis

[Parental influences on excessive Internet use among adolescents](#), *Internet Research*, Vol. 33, Issue 7, 2023, Emerald Publishing Limited, Bingley, Conor O'Reilly, Gretta Mohan

[Population growth: Implications for commuting](#), *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 54, No. 1 Spring 2023, pp. 101-121, Economic and Social Studies, John Curtis, Elish Kelly

[The effect of smoky coal bans on chronic lung disease among older people in Ireland](#), *Economics & Human Biology*, Vol. 50, August 2023, Elsevier,

Seán Lyons, Likun Mao, Anne Nolan, Vincent O'Sullivan

[The impacts of removing fossil fuel subsidies and increasing carbon taxation in Ireland](#), *Environmental and Resource Economics*, Vol. 85, 03, pp. 741–782, Springer, Kelly de Bruin, Aykut Mert Yakut

[Trends in household demand and greenhouse gas footprints in Germany: Evidence from microdata of the last 20 years](#), *Ecological Economics*, Vol. 208, June 2023, Elsevier, Anke Jacksohn, Miguel Angel Tovar Reaños, Frank Pothén, Katrin Rehdanz

[Use of information communication technologies by older people and telemedicine adoption during COVID-19: a longitudinal study](#), *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*, Vol. 30, Issue 12, December 2023, pp. 2012–2020, Oxford University Press, Gretta Mohan



Reports and Other Publications

[Clean air together Dublin: Impact on air quality awareness, attitudes and behaviour](#), ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series, 120, Anne Nolan, Aislinn Hoy

[Research on the environment, health, consumer behaviour and the economy: ESRI research programme on environmental socio-economics 2020–2022](#), EPA, Wexford, Ylva Andersson, Peter Barlow, Philip Carthy, Kelly de Bruin, Míde Griffin, Seán Lyons, Pete Lunn, Bertrand Maitre, Likun Mao, Maria Martinez Cillero, David Meier, Gretta Mohan, Kieran Mohr, Anne Nolan, Brian O'Connell, Vincent O'Sullivan, Aidan Sloyan, Shane Timmons, Miguel Tovar Reaños, Brendan Walsh, Aykut Mert Yakut



ESRI Research Bulletins

[Examining food preferences in the face of environmental pressures](#), Wellington Osawe, Gianluca Grilli, John Curtis

[Factors influencing excessive internet use among adolescents in Ireland](#), Gretta Mohan

[Public initiatives to change behaviours impacting water quality](#), Gianluca Grilli, John Curtis

[Telemedicine adoption during COVID-19 among older people with varying digital technology engagement](#), Gretta Mohan

[Water quality protection functions with local authorities](#), Gianluca Grilli, John Curtis

[Young people who meet online acquaintances in real life](#), Gretta Mohan



ESRI Working Papers

[A linear reduced-order model for the activated sludge process for the integration into a mixed-integer linear energy system optimisation model](#), Dana Kirchem, Matteo Giberti, Recep Kaan Dereli, Juha Kiviluoma, Muireann Lynch, Eoin Casey

[Are energy performance certificates a strong predictor of actual energy use? Evidence from high-frequency thermostat panel data](#), Tensay Hadush Meles, Niall Farrell, John Curtis

[Calculating efficient Distribution use of System \(DUoS\) charges for Ireland: Indicative tariffs for residential, commercial and industrial consumers](#), Niall Farrell

[Cournot competition in an integerconstrained electricity market model](#), Mel Devine, Muireann Lynch

[Energy poverty prediction and effective targeting for just transitions with machine learning](#), Constantine Spandagos, Miguel Tovar Reaños, Muireann Lynch

[Equity effects of energy affordability interventions](#), Niall Farrell

[Fuel poverty and financial literacy: Evidence from Irish home owners](#), Miguel A. Tovar Reaños John Curtis, Arya Pillai, David Meier

[Hidden fuel poverty in Spain and Ireland. A comparative study of measuring and targeting](#), F. Javier Palencia González, Miguel A. Tovar Reaños, Jose Maria Labeaga Azcona

[Hydrogen supply chain modelling at energy system scale: a review](#), Fabio Bozzolo Lueckel, Rory Monaghan, Muireann Lynch

[The equity and efficiency of electricity network tariffs](#), Niall Farrell, Tensay Hadush Meles



ESRI Submissions

[ESRI's submission to CRU on their consultation on four evidence papers relating to energy demand and flexibility](#), Niall Farrell, Muireann Lynch



Health and Quality of Life



Research Area Coordinators:

Anne Nolan, Sheelah Connolly

Researchers working in this area in 2023:

Aoife Brick, Katie Duffy, Ellen Flanagan, Aislínn Hoy, Harry Humes, Theano Kakoulidou, Pete Lunn, Gretta Mohan, Ellen McHugh, Deirdre Robertson, Shane Timmons, Michael Vallely, Brendan Walsh

INTRODUCTION

In 2023, health and quality of life research focused on the areas of health service reform and public health. Health service reform research focused on capacity requirements in the healthcare system, changes and challenges to the long-term residential care sector since the onset of the pandemic, and issues of barriers to access to services. Public health research examined the impact of environmental conditions on health and wellbeing, changes in mental health and wellbeing from childhood to young adulthood, and the determinants of sexual health among young people.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS AND FINDINGS

Highlight 1: Research, funded by the **Department of Health**, using the ESRI's Hippocrates Model and published in January, examined the cost implications of extending eligibility for general practitioner (GP) care. Reflecting varying assumptions on population growth and ageing, take-up rates and payments to GPs, the analysis found that extending eligibility for GP care to all in 2026 would cost the State between €381 million and €881 million.

Highlight 2: Funded through the **Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety initiative**, a paper published in May examined COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term residential care (LTRC) settings. The research found that two-thirds of all LTRC settings had at least one COVID-19 outbreak between March 2020 and March 2021. Over the same period, there were over 8,500 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 2,100 deaths among LTRC residents. Being located in a county with high community rates of COVID-19 was found to have the largest association with the probability of a COVID-19 outbreak.

Highlight 3: In July, a paper was published from the **EPA** research programme on the impact on the health of older people of the roll-out of smoky coal bans across the country. Using data from the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA), the research found that those living in areas covered by the



Extending eligibility for GP care to all in 2026 would cost the State between €381 million and €881 million.

smoky coal bans had better respiratory health than those living in areas not covered by the bans.

OTHER RESEARCH OUTPUTS

In 2023, work continued on a number of projects, including workforce projections, sexual health and wellbeing in young adulthood (funded by the **HSE**), and the Housing and Healthcare Planning model.

New projects begun in 2023 included a **Department of Health**-funded capacity review of the healthcare system and a **HRB**-funded project examining mental health and wellbeing from childhood to young adulthood.

Throughout the year, presentations were made to a wide range of academic conferences, stakeholders and policymakers, including the Irish Economic Association, the Health Economics Study group, the Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies, the Institute of Public Health, the Department of Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency.



Journal Articles

Childcare utilisation by migration background: Evidence from a nationally representative Irish cohort study, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, Vol. 84, April 2023, Elsevier, Stefanie Sprong, Jan Skopek

Area-level deprivation, neighbourhood factors and associations with mental health, *PLoS ONE*, Vol. 18, Issue 1, January 2023, PLOS, Gretta Mohan, Peter Barlow

Characteristics and behaviours of young people who meet online contacts face-to-face, *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*, Vol. 28, Issue 1, 2023, Routledge, Gretta Mohan

COVID-19 in the community and outbreaks in long-term residential care in Ireland, *Journal of Long-Term Care*, 2023, pp. 23-32, LSE Press, London, Brendan Walsh, Sheelah Connolly, Maev-Ann Wren

Improving access to healthcare in Ireland: an implementation failure, *Health Economics, Policy and Law*, 2023, pp. 1-11, Cambridge University Press, Sheelah Connolly



Reports and Other Publications

Extending eligibility for general practitioner care in Ireland: cost implications, ESRI Research Series, 156, Sheelah Connolly, Conor Keegan, Seamus O'Malley, Mark Regan

Regulatory impact of possible radon prevention measures in new build homes in Ireland, ESRI Research Series, 162, Seán Lyons, Katie Duffy, Anne Nolan

Towards universal healthcare in Ireland – what can we learn from the literature?, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series, 121, Sheelah Connolly, Maev-Ann Wren, Conor Keegan



QEC Special Articles and Research Notes

Inpatient bed capacity requirements in Ireland in 2023: Evidence on the public acute hospital system, *QEC Research Note*, Brendan Walsh, Aoife Brick



ESRI Research Bulletins

COVID-19 in the community and outbreaks in long-term residential care in Ireland, Brendan Walsh, Sheelah Connolly, Maev-Ann Wren

Neighbourhood factors and associations with mental health, Gretta Mohan, Peter Barlow

Young people who gamble in Ireland, Gretta Mohan



ESRI Working Papers

The healthcare costs of poor air quality in Ireland: An analysis of hospital admissions, Anne Nolan



Labour Market and Skills



Research Area Coordinators:

Seamus McGuinness

Researchers working in this area in 2023:

Anne Devlin, Luke Brosnan, Klavs Ciprikis, Elish Kelly, Lorcan Kelly, Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond, Adele Whelan



In 2023, research was undertaken covering a diverse range of topics, resulting in several newly released or finalised publications. The team launched two reports, funded by the **Low Pay Commission**, examining the quality of minimum wage jobs and the incidence of sub-minimum pay rates in Ireland. A study, funded by **Pobal**, was published examining the link between the labour market impacts of COVID-19 and social disadvantage. During the year, the team conducted a study examining the link between area-level deprivation and the health impacts of COVID-19, also funded by **Pobal**.

Researchers finalised a report, and accompanying implementation guide, funded by the **Department of Rural and Community Development**, on the identification of key indicators for monitoring welfare levels in rural areas and the effectiveness of policy interventions. The team continued to research North/South issues and made progress on studies examining cross-border workers and differences in cross-border inactivity rates, funded under the ESRI's joint research programmes with the **Department of Finance and Irish Business and Employers Confederation (Ibec)**, respectively. Finally, in 2023 as part of a new research programme, with the **Department for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science**, the team advanced a study on the demand and supply of skills in emerging technology areas in Ireland.

Work progressed on a number of EU-funded projects. As part of our **ERASMUS+** funded **CHAISE** programme, researchers published the report presenting the 2023 blockchain skills forecasts for Europe. Research focusing on youth unemployment in Europe continued under a Cowork4YOUTH award financed by the **EEA and Norway Grants Fund**. In 2023, researchers were part of two successful bids funded under **Horizon 2023** calls on the topics of skills mismatches. Research projects under both the **TRAILS** and **SkillsPULSE** projects will commence over the 2024-

2027 period, fostering collaboration with international partners. These projects align with our commitment to contribute to critical issues in skills development and labour market dynamics at a European level.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- The research carried out for the Low Pay Commission during 2023 was particularly impactful. The study on job quality found that minimum-wage employees are more likely than higher-paid employees to fear job loss, to hold temporary employment contracts and to work unsociable hours. The study on sub-minimum minimum wages



Minimum-wage employees are more likely than higher-paid employees to fear job loss, to hold temporary employment contracts and to work unsociable hours.

found that the incidence of sub-minimum wage employment in Ireland is low. In 2022, just 1.4 per cent of all employees were sub-minimum wage employees; in the same year, 5.6 per cent of employees were earning the full-rate minimum wage.

- The study on the labour market impacts of COVID-19 and social disadvantage indicated that the employment situation of individuals in deprived areas (as measured by the HP Deprivation Index) was more heavily affected by pandemic lockdown condition, than that of individuals from

more affluent areas. Specifically, it found that unemployment rates increased more rapidly for workers in more deprived areas during periods of heightened pandemic restrictions. Conversely, these rates declined more rapidly when restrictions were eased. The results indicate greater vulnerability for workers in deprived areas, who were more likely to lose their jobs as a result of COVID-19 and also had less discretion on when to return to the labour market, when infection rates fell, relative to individuals from more affluent areas.



Journal Articles

[Developing entrepreneurial skillsets amongst rural women in Uganda](#), *Journal of Enterprising Culture*, Vol. 31, No. 01, 2023, pp. 77-100, World Scientific Publishing, Sylvia Gavigan, Thomas M. Cooney, Klavs Ciprikis

[Education across the Island of Ireland: Examining educational outcomes, earnings and intergenerational mobility](#), *Irish Studies in International Affairs*, Vol. 34, No. 2, 2023, pp. 30-47, Royal Irish Academy, Anne Devlin, Seamus McGuinness, Adele Bergin, Emer Smyth

[The impact of voter turnout on referendum outcomes: Evidence from Ireland](#), *Public Choice*, Vol. 194, 2023, pp. 369-393, Springer, Paul Redmond, Vincent Munley, Abián García Rodríguez

[Why are disability rates for older working-age adults in Northern Ireland so high?](#), *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 54, No. 1 Spring 2023, pp. 1-28, Anne Devlin, Declan French, Duncan McVicar

[Young people not in employment, education or training \(NEET\): Concepts, consequences and policy approaches](#), *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 54 No. 4, Winter, 2023, pp. 285-327, Paul Redmond, Ciara McFadden



Reports and Other Publications

[Annual Blockchain Skills Forecasts, June 2023](#), CHAISE, Europe, Seamus McGuinness, Adele Whelan, Klavs Ciprikis, Abián García Rodríguez, Elisa Staffa

[Job quality of minimum wage workers in Ireland](#), ESRI Research Series, 165, Paul Redmond, Klavs Ciprikis, Elisa Staffa

[Pandemic unemployment and social disadvantage](#), ESRI Research Series, 163, Adele Whelan, Anne Devlin, Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond

[Sub-minimum wages in Ireland](#), ESRI Research Series, 167, Paul Redmond, Elisa Staffa, Klavs Ciprikis, Seamus McGuinness, Oisín Gilmore



Dr Adele Whelan (ESRI) speaking at the launch of 'Pandemic unemployment and social disadvantage in Ireland' funded by Pobal.



(L-R) ESRI authors Dr Adele Whelan, Dr Paul Redmond, Prof Seamus McGuinness and Dr Anne Devlin at the launch of 'Pandemic unemployment and social disadvantage in Ireland'



Macroeconomics



Research Area Coordinators:

Adele Bergin, Kieran McQuinn and
Martina Lawless

Researchers working in this area in 2023:

Wendy Disch, Paul Egan, Eoin Kenny, Akhilesh Kumar
Verma, Janez Kren, Conor O'Toole, Eva Shiel, Rachel
Slaymaker, Lea Hauser



The ESRI's Macroeconomics division aims to improve understanding of economic growth, the property market, and the relationship between the macroeconomy and the financial sector. Throughout 2023, the research agenda was strongly influenced by these themes. Notable areas of focus encompassed monetary policy adjustments, the evolving dynamics in the rental market, the ongoing impact of the conflict in Ukraine, and the examination of investment and trade activities in both the private and public sectors.

In 2023, research under the joint programme with the **Department of Finance** and the **Revenue Commissioners** examined issues that included estimating the potential medium-term impact of the war in Ukraine on the Irish economy, and exploring the impact of a number of ECB policy interest-rate increase scenarios on the Irish economy.

Research under the joint programme with the **Irish Business and Employers Confederation (Ibec)** focused on the economy of Northern Ireland and the all-island economy. 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 focused on the structure of international goods trade for Ireland and Northern Ireland and on labour supply issues on the island.

In 2023 research under the joint programme with the **Department of the Taoiseach** on the economic and social opportunities from increased co-operation on a shared island focused on student mobility, gender and labour market inclusion, social attitudes, and housing supply across the island of Ireland.

The joint research programme with the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage** continued into 2023 and was renewed for a further three years. In 2023, the focus continued to be on projects at the 'coal face' of research and policy. In particular, research was published

exploring how the housing affordability challenges faced in Ireland compare with similar households in 14 other European countries. This extensive research provided cross-country insights into the affordability challenge and allowed the Irish situation to be placed in a European context. Further work focused on the investment requirements for energy efficiency upgrades for residential private rental properties, while projects on short-term lets, residential land prices and the determinants of homeownership were started.



In 2023, much attention was given to the dual economy and the continuing difference in performance between the sectors of the economy dominated by domestic firms and those dominated by multinational firms.

The ESRI continued to produce the quarterly Rent Index for the **Residential Tenancies Board (RTB)**. The indices are used by the RTB as part of the qualification criteria for the Rent Pressure Zones, and thus have an extremely high policy value. Work in 2023 focused on the introduction of Existing Tenancies Rent Index measures, which for the first time capture the rent levels and changes over time faced by sitting tenants, in addition to the longstanding New Tenancies Rent Index measures. This greatly enhances the monitoring capacity and market surveillance of the private rental sector overall. As part of this process, a detailed report was published exploring the differences in rents between existing and new tenancies. The ESRI team also continued to publish on rent control issues in academic journals such as the *International Journal of Housing Policy*.

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 variables. In 2023, much attention was given to the dual economy and the continuing difference in performance between the sectors of the economy dominated by domestic firms and those dominated by multinational firms (MNE). Work also focused on developing an alternative labour market indicator for the Irish economy, bed-capacity levels in the Irish health system, analysis of the public finances, and continued refinement of the nowcasting methodology.



Journal Articles

Analysing SME investment, financing constraints and its determinants: A stochastic frontier approach, *International Review of Economics & Finance*, Vol. 85, May 2023, pp. 578-588, Elsevier, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Martina Lawless, Conor O'Toole

Exploring rent pressure zones: Ireland's recent rent control regime, *International Journal of Housing Policy*, Vol. 23, Issue 4, pp. 712-733, Taylor & Francis, Conor O'Toole

Forecasting and backtesting systemic risk in the cryptocurrency market, *Finance Research Letters*, Vol. 54, June 2023, Elsevier, Sheng Fang, Guangxi Cao, Paul Egan

Interest rate pass-through in Euro Area mortgage markets: The long shadow of the great financial crisis, *CESifo Economic Studies*, Vol. 69, Issue 4, December 2023, pp. 234-248, CESifo, Paul Egan, Kieran McQuinn

The impact of government spending on Ireland's housing and residential market – Targeted vs economy-wide stimulus, *Journal of Policy Modeling*, Vol. 45, Issue 3, May-June 2023, pp. 552-569, Elsevier, Paul Egan, Adele Bergin

The role of borrower expectations in mortgage choice, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, Vol. 107, December 2023, Elsevier, Kenneth Devine, Yvonne McCarthy, Conor O'Toole



Reports and Other Publications

[Housing affordability: Ireland in a cross-country context](#), ESRI Research Series, 164, Wendy Disch, Rachel Slaymaker

[New vs existing rental tenancies in Ireland: A first look at annual registrations microdata](#), ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series, 122, Rachel Slaymaker, Eva Shiel

[Quarterly Economic Commentary, Autumn 2023](#), ESRI Forecasting Series, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Eoin Kenny

[Quarterly Economic Commentary, Spring 2023](#), ESRI Forecasting Series, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Wendy Disch, Eoin Kenny

[Quarterly Economic Commentary, Summer 2023](#), ESRI Forecasting Series, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Wendy Disch, Eoin Kenny, Eva Shiel

[Quarterly Economic Commentary, Winter 2023](#), ESRI Forecasting Series, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Lea Hauser, Eoin Kenny

[Structure of international goods trade for Ireland and Northern Ireland](#), ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series, 117, Martina Lawless, Janez Kren

[Switching activity in retail financial markets in Ireland](#), ESRI Research Series, 161, Alexandros Papadopoulos, Féidhlim McGowan, Shane Timmons, Pete Lunn



QEC Special Articles and Research Notes

[Understanding the Irish economy](#), QEC Special Article, John FitzGerald



ESRI Working Papers

[A cross country perspective on Irish enterprise investment: Do fundamentals or constraints matter?](#), Eric Gargan, Eoin Kenny, Cynthia O'Regan, Conor O'Toole

[Firm-level attitudes and actions to the Twin Transition challenges of digitalisation and climate change](#), Janez Kren, Martina Lawless

[Government debt forecast errors and the net expenditure rule in EU countries](#), David Cronin, Kieran McQuinn

[Interest rate snapback and the impacts on the Irish economy](#), Paul Egan, Eoin Kenny, Conor O'Toole

[Monetary tightening in the Euro Area: Implications for residential investment](#), Paul Egan, Kieran McQuinn

[The potential impact of the war in Ukraine on the Irish economy](#), Paul Egan, Adele Bergin, Conor O'Toole



(L to R) Fergal O'Brien (Ibec), Maureen O'Reilly (independent economist), Prof Martina Lawless (ESRI), Dr Janez Kren (ESRI) and Dr Eoin Magennis (Ulster University) at the launch of the report 'Structure of International Goods Trade for Ireland and Northern Ireland'



Prof Martina Lawless presenting at the launch of the report 'Structure of International Goods Trade for Ireland and Northern Ireland'



Migration, Integration and Demography



Research Area Coordinators:

Frances McGinnity and Emma Quinn

Researchers working in this area in 2023:

Anousheh Alamir, Emily Cunniffe, Ciára Dalton, Merike Darmody, James Laurence, Aislin Lavin, Elish Kelly, Garance Hingre, Dervla Potter, Michal Polakowski, Helen Russell, Anne Sheridan, Stefanie Sprong, Amy Stapleton, Keire Murphy

Research in the area of Migration, Integration and Demography focuses on the integration of migrants, as well as migration trends and policy. In 2023 research examined labour market-related themes, including the wages and working conditions of non-Irish nationals and the labour market integration of international protection applicants.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS AND FINDINGS

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 March, EMN research examined the labour market integration of international protection applicants and found widespread take-up of permissions, with high approval rates, since access was first granted to applicants in 2018. However, the available data show that most enter jobs characterised by low wages and poorer working conditions.

Also in March, the biennial Monitoring Report on Integration was published under the ESRI/**Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth** research programme. It presents a wide range of indicators. Among key findings, it showed improvements in migrant labour market outcomes, which had been severely affected by COVID-19-related restrictions. By early 2022, the migrant employment rate (77 per cent) was higher than that of the Irish-born (72 per cent) and exceeded the migrant employment rate immediately prior to the pandemic. Improvements were particularly marked among African migrants, who have long faced disadvantages in the labour market. Migrants had a higher 'at risk of poverty' rate (at 17 per cent) than Irish-born (12 per cent) and faced more issues relating to housing affordability, with 29 per cent of migrants spending more than 30 per cent of their income on housing compared to 8 per cent of the Irish-born population.

In late January, another study in this research programme was published which examined wages and working conditions among migrants in Ireland. The study used data

from the Labour Force Survey, matched with Revenue data on earnings. Key findings were a large migrant wage gap, particularly for East Europeans, who earn 40 per cent less per hour than their Irish counterparts. Migrant women face a double wage penalty, though the study found that the migrant wage penalty dropped between the recession period (2011–2013) and the recovery period (2016–2018).

A collaborative study with the **Shared Island unit at the Department of the Taoiseach** was also published in March, comparing migrant integration in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The study showed a higher proportion of migrants in Ireland than Northern Ireland, and very high rates of employment among migrants in both jurisdictions. In 2018, attitudes to migrants were more favourable in Ireland than Northern Ireland. A consultation event with migrant organisations north and



Research found a large migrant wage gap, particularly for East Europeans, who earn 40 per cent less per hour than their Irish counterparts.



south highlighted the challenges for migrants in terms of cross-border travel, work and study, especially post-Brexit.

OTHER RESEARCH OUTPUTS

During the year, the **Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth** (DCEDIY) launched a public consultation to inform the development of a new national strategy for migrant integration. ESRI submissions highlighted the importance of both monitoring and evidence as a core part of any future strategy, as well as key policy implications arising from the Monitoring Report on Integration series to date: the need to improve qualification recognition, jobseeker engagement, labour market activation policies appropriate to the needs of migrants, and consideration of targeted integration supports for refugees and protection applicants.

The **Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth** commissioned ESRI to complete a pilot project to inform the design of a large-scale study on why people come to Ireland to seek international protection. A research design protocol was produced, with recommendations on how high-quality and ethical qualitative research on this topic could best be conducted.

Work also began under the research programme on integration, investigating the drivers of attitudes of the population in

Ireland to immigrants, protection applicants and Ukrainians, and how these have changed over time. Two outputs will be published in 2024.

Ireland does not participate in certain EU migration and asylum-related legislation unless it notifies of its intention to do so. In December EMN Ireland published an online, quick-reference guide to Ireland's participation in EU migration and asylum legislation.

In June 2023, ESRI researchers edited a book about post-school pathways for migrant-origin young people in Europe. The book compiles contributions from prominent international scholars, offering comprehensive coverage of various European jurisdictions. The book was launched at an ESRI in-person event in December, with a keynote presentation by Professor Irena Kogan from the University of Mannheim.

At the International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE) annual conference in Warsaw in July, ESRI researchers presented a study on measures to combat racial discrimination. This study was compiled to inform the National Action Plan Against Racism. Ongoing research on the academic achievement of migrant-origin primary schoolchildren, drawing on the GUI '08 cohort, was also presented at this migration conference in Warsaw and also at the European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) annual conference in Prague in September.



Journal Articles

How do migrants fare in the Irish labour market? Country of origin, gender, asylum and ethnicity effects, *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 2023, Taylor & Francis, Ivan Privalko, Frances McGinnity, Sarah Curristan, Shannen Enright



Reports and Other Publications

Annual report on migration and asylum 2022: Ireland, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series, 124, Keire Murphy, Anne Sheridan

Comparing migrant integration in Ireland and Northern Ireland, ESRI Research Series, 158, Fran McGinnity, James Laurence, Emily Cuniffe

Labour market integration of international protection applicants in Ireland, ESRI Research Series, 160, Michal Polakowski, Emily Cuniffe

Monitoring report on integration 2022, jointly published report 3, ESRI and Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Dublin, Frances McGinnity, Stefanie Sprong, Emma Quinn, James Laurence, Keire Murphy, Sarah Curristan

Wages and working conditions of non-Irish nationals in Ireland, jointly published report 2, ESRI and Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Dublin, James Laurence, Elish Kelly, Frances McGinnity, Sarah Curristan



Chapters in Books and Reports

Conclusion to Post-school Pathways of Migrant-Origin Youth in Europe, Chapter 8 in Merike Darmody & Emer Smyth (eds.), *Post-school Pathways of Migrant-Origin Youth in Europe*, Routledge, London, Merike Darmody, Emer Smyth

Post-school expectations and outcomes among migrant-origin young people in Ireland, Chapter 3 in Merike Darmody & Emer Smyth (eds.), *Post-school Pathways of Migrant-Origin Youth in Europe*, Routledge, London, Frances McGinnity, Merike Darmody, Emer Smyth

Post-school pathways and migrant youth, Chapter 1 in Merike Darmody & Emer Smyth (eds.), *Post-school Pathways of Migrant-Origin Youth in Europe*, Routledge, London, Merike Darmody, Emer Smyth



Martin Durcan (Ukrainian Action in Ireland), Emily Cuniffe (EMN Ireland), Dr Fran McGinnity (ESRI), Mark Cumming (moderator), Emma Quinn (EMN Ireland) at the EMN event *New Insights on Migrant Integration in Ireland*.



Dr Frances McGinnity (ESRI) speaking at the launch of the ESRI/Shared Island report 'Comparing migrant integration in Ireland and Northern Ireland'



Social Inclusion and Equality



Research Area Coordinators:

Bertrand Maitre and Frances McGinnity

Researchers working in this area in 2023:

Anousheh Alamir, Adele Bergin, Eamonn Carroll, Anne Devlin, Karina Doorley, Garance Hingre, Theano Kakoulidou, Elish Kelly, James Laurence, Selina McCoy, Seamus McGuinness, Barra Roantree, Helen Russell, Emer Smyth, Stefanie Sprong, Adele Whelan, Keyu Ye

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 2023, researchers investigated a diverse range of topics, including poverty and social exclusion, disability supports and attitudes to disability, (in)equality in children’s achievement and their wellbeing, early childhood care and education, and gender balance in the financial sector.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS AND FINDINGS

In February, a study funded by the **Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth**, found that, while most children live in decent housing, those in poorer conditions experience lasting negative effects. They report increased social and emotional difficulties, fewer positive interactions with peers, and negative physical health outcomes, especially with heightened respiratory problems due to dampness and inadequate heating.

A study funded by the **National Disability Authority**, released in October, investigated Personal Assistance Services for Disabled People in Ireland. The research highlighted persistent challenges in the Personal Assistance system, including issues related to insufficient funding, incomplete administrative data records, disparities in allocation, and uneven service provision across the country.

In November, a report funded by the **Department of Social Protection** provided a comprehensive review of the advancement of the Government’s social inclusion targets for 2025. The research found that Ireland was performing relatively well on the indicators for older people and children but less so for people with disabilities and lone parents, highlighting the imperative of additional support for these groups.

A collaborative study with the Shared Island unit at the **Department of the Taoiseach** published in November analysed social and political attitudes across the island of Ireland since 1998. It examined trust in institutions and people, attitudes toward inequality, and political views, including satisfaction with democracy, political voice and future expectations. Overall, it found that satisfaction with democracy, trust in political, judicial and media institutions, and the sense of political influence was generally higher in Ireland than in Northern Ireland.

OTHER RESEARCH OUTPUTS

In March, ESRI researchers gave the keynote address at an event on ‘Building an Inclusive and Diverse Public Sector’, organised by publicjobs.ie and attended by a wide group of public sector workers. The presentation summarised a scoping study for publicjobs.ie conducted in 2022, which analysed publicjobs.ie data from 2019–2021 to investigate equality and diversity in public sector recruitment in Ireland.

“
While most children live in decent housing, those in poorer conditions experience lasting negative effects.”



ESRI researchers appeared in March 2023 before an **Oireachtas Committee** on personal assistance supports for people with disabilities. They discussed their study on personal assistance supports in Ireland and the experiences of disabled people as they negotiate and engage with these services.

In June, the first annual report on the Women in Finance Charter was funded by **Banking & Payments Federation Ireland, the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (Ibec), Insurance Ireland, and Irish Fund**. The charter is an initiative that seeks to improve female representation in financial services firms operating in Ireland.

In September, researchers presented on 'Housing Health and Happiness' at the European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) conference in Prague, drawing on work from the **Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth**.

Work also commenced on a programme of research for the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission**. One project is investigating the equality impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market in Ireland. A second project is focused on adjusting estimates of poverty for the cost of disability. Both reports are due to be published in 2024.



Journal Articles

Barriers to social inclusion and levels of urbanisation: Does it matter where you live?, *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, Oxford University Press, Adele Whelan, Anne Devlin, Seamus McGuinness

Effects of absolute levels of neighbourhood ethnic diversity vs. changes in neighbourhood diversity on prejudice: Moderation by individual differences in personality, *Social Science Research*, Vol. 115, September 2023, Elsevier, Laura Silva, Franco Bonomi Bezzo, James Laurence, Katharina Schmid

Personal assistance services for disabled people in Ireland: 'They meet the criteria for supports but we don't have the resources to provide the services', *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 53, No. 3, Autumn, 2023, Eammon Carroll, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, Selina McCoy

What buffered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on depression? A longitudinal study of caregivers of school aged children in Ireland, *European Sociological Review*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, James Laurence, Helen Russell, Emer Smyth



Reports and Other Publications

Changing social and political attitudes in Ireland and Northern Ireland, ESRI Research Series, 170, James Laurence, Stefanie Sprong, Frances McGinnity, Helen Russell, Garance Hingre

Civic and political engagement among young adults in Ireland, ESRI Research Series, 171, James Laurence, Emer Smyth

Early childhood education and care in Ireland: North and South, ESRI Research Series, 157, Sarah Curristan, Frances McGinnity, Helen Russell, Emer Smyth

Experimental tests of public support for disability policy, ESRI Research Series, 159, Shane Timmons, Eamonn Carroll, Frances McGinnity

Growing Up in Ireland: Key findings: Cohort '08 at 13 years old, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Dublin, Emer Smyth, Aisling Murray, Eoin McNamara, Desmond O'Mahony, Adam Nolan, Brendan Duggan

Housing adequacy and child outcomes in early and middle childhood, ESRI Research Series, 154, James Laurence, Helen Russell, Emer Smyth

Ireland's Women in Finance Charter: Annual Report 2022, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series, 118, Sarah Curristan, Helen Russell, Fran McGinnity

Technical Paper on the Poverty Indicators for Social Inclusion in Ireland, Department of Social Protection, Dublin, Bertrand Maitre, Stefanie Sprong

Thematic Report: Poverty and Social Inclusion Indicators in the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020–2025 in Comparative Perspective Covering 2018–2021, Social Inclusion Thematic report No. 11, Department of Social Protection and ESRI, Dublin, Stefanie Sprong, Bertrand Maitre



Research found that satisfaction with democracy, trust in political, judicial and media institutions, and the sense of political influence was generally higher in Ireland than in Northern Ireland.



ESRI Research Bulletins

Differences in childcare use between Irish-born and immigrant households in Ireland, Stefanie Sprong, Jan Skopek

What protected the wellbeing of mothers during the Pandemic?, James Laurence, Helen Russell, Emer Smyth



ESRI Working Papers

Ableism differs by disability, gender and social context: Evidence from vignette experiments, Shane Timmons, Frances McGinnity, Eamonn Carroll



Patricia Callan (Chair of Steering Group, Financial Services Ireland Director), Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD (Minister of State for Financial Services, Credit Unions & Insurance) and Prof Helen Russell (ESRI) at the launch of the first annual report on the Women in Finance charter, which was compiled by the ESRI.



Prof Helen Russell (ESRI) presenting at the launch of the first annual report on the Women in Finance charter.



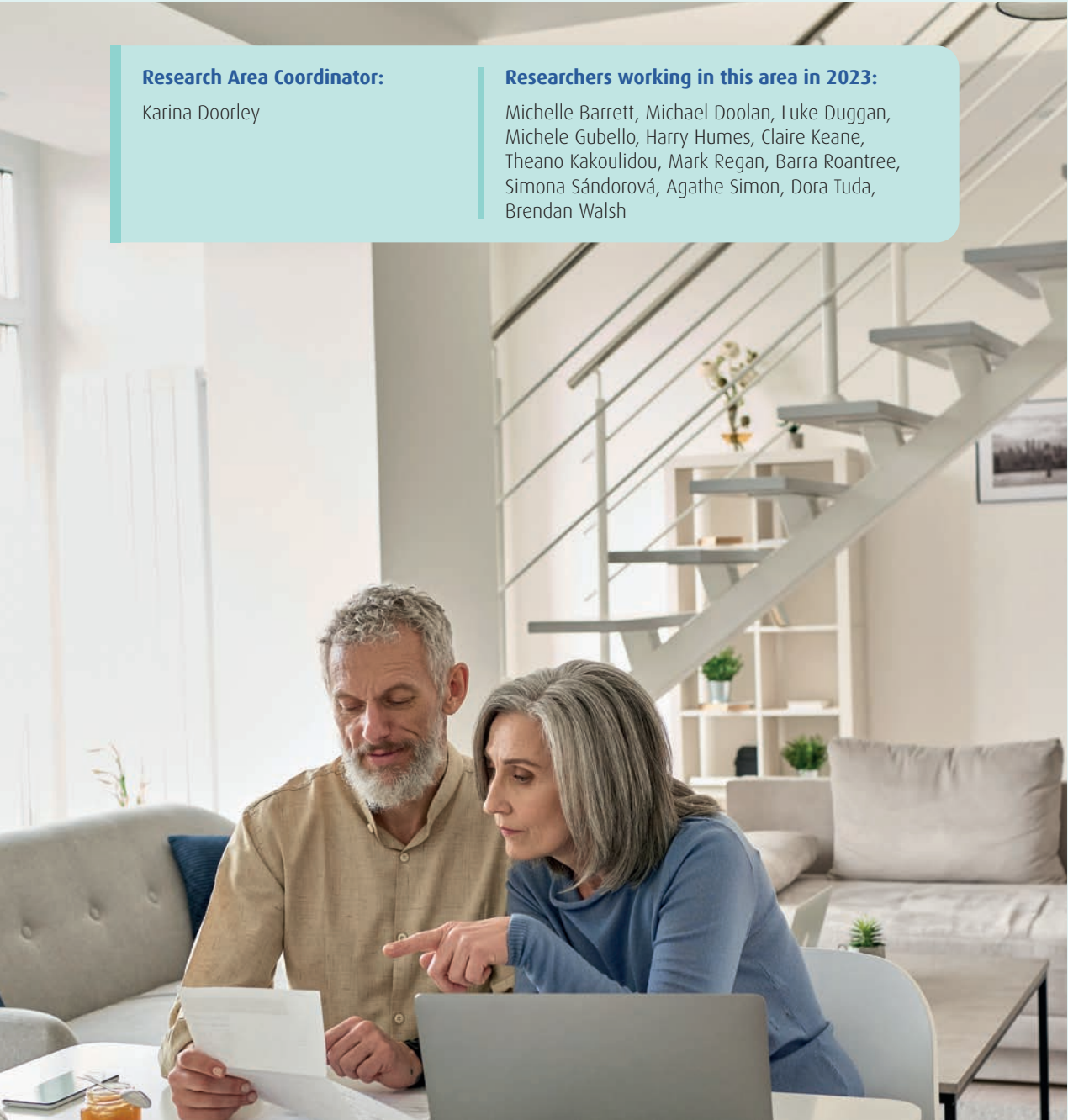
Tax, Welfare and Pensions

Research Area Coordinator:

Karina Doorley

Researchers working in this area in 2023:

Michelle Barrett, Michael Doolan, Luke Duggan, Michele Gubello, Harry Humes, Claire Keane, Theano Kakoulidou, Mark Regan, Barra Roantree, Simona Sándorová, Agathe Simon, Dora Tuda, Brendan Walsh



This research area examines the design of the tax, welfare and pensions system, with a focus on the effect it has on redistribution, poverty, inequality and incentives to work. Much of this work uses SWITCH, the ESRI tax and benefit model, to simulate the impact of reforms on households. Each of the outputs mentioned below is part of the tax, welfare and pensions 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, NDP Delivery and Reform**.

At the annual Budget Perspectives conference in June, organised by the team, they presented three new pieces of work. The first examined the potential cost and distributional impacts of extending the National Childcare Scheme subsidies to childminders. In light of the Commission on Taxation and Welfare's recommendation that all 'cliff edges', points where taxes jump or benefit entitlements drop sharply, be removed, the second paper looked at such features in the Irish tax-benefit system. The third paper looked at housing tenure, health and public healthcare coverage in Ireland. The conference also saw an address by Chief Economist of the Department of Finance John McCarthy and a presentation on minimum income support systems in Europe by Professor Werner Eichhorst of the Institute for Labour Studies (IZA).

A chapter of a book published in August examined the role for microsimulation in understanding the drivers of inequality. The team also published a variety of articles throughout the year in peer-reviewed journals. The first detailed the SWITCH model, its workings and how the model is validated. Another examined the extent to which tax-benefit systems close gender market income gaps. One paper looked at the link between social trust and support for universal basic incomes. A working paper was also published examining the issue of non-take-up of the in-work support for families, the Working Family Payment.

In September the third annual 'Poverty, Income Inequality and Living Standards in Ireland' report, funded by **Community Foundation Ireland**, was published. This work continues to look at the evolution of income growth, inequality, poverty and deprivation over time in Ireland. It found that introducing a means-tested second-tier of child benefit has the potential to take more than 40,000 children out of poverty.

In October, the team held their annual post-Budget briefing, looking at the distributional impact of tax and welfare policy changes announced as part of Budget 2024. This work showed that, while the permanent tax-benefit measures did not keep pace with sizeable inflation, the one-off measures introduced in response to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis did ensure a substantial cushioning of incomes, particularly for lower-income families. Accounting for inflation, most families were found to be slightly better off following the one-off measures



Introducing a means-tested second-tier of child benefit has the potential to take more than 40,000 children out of poverty.



with the exception of small income losses for lone parents, pensioners and non-earning households. This work was published in more detail as a special article in the ESRI's *Quarterly Economic Commentary* in December.

The work of the tax, welfare and pensions team continued its strong policy focus. The SWITCH model continued to be used in a range of government departments to feed into policy decisions and pre/post Budget analysis. Team members made a submission to the Department of Social Protection's public consultation on the introduction of a pay-related Jobseeker's Benefit. Members of the team also appeared at various Oireachtas

committees throughout the year, giving evidence on topics such as the budgetary situation, pension auto-enrolment, Budget 2024 distributional impacts, cliff edges in the tax/welfare system, and the Commission on Taxation and Welfare recommendations.

Finally, in February, it was announced that the report of the Commission on Taxation and Welfare, of which one of the team was a member, had won the Miriam Hederman O'Brien Prize, which recognises those whose work contributes to informed discussion of key fiscal, economic and social policy issues in Ireland. Another team publication, which examined home support financing in Ireland, was one of the prize finalists.



Journal Articles

Childcare in Ireland: Usage, affordability and incentives to work, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 54, No. 4, Winter, 2023, pp. 247-283. *Economic and Social Studies*, Karina Doorley, Dora Tuda, Alyvia McTague, Mark Regan

Social trust and the support for universal basic income, *European Journal of Political Economy*, 2023, Elsevier, Michelle Gubello

SWITCH: A tax-benefit model for Ireland linked to survey and register data, *Taxes and Benefits*, Vol. 16, No. 1, Spring 2023, pp. 65-88, International Microsimulation Association, Claire Keane, Karina Doorley, Theano Kakoulidou, Seamus O'Malley

Tax-benefit systems and the gender gap in income, *Journal of Economic Inequality*, 2023, Springer, Karina Doorley, Claire Keane



Reports and Other Publications

Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland: Third annual report, jointly published by ESRI and Community Foundation Ireland, Dublin, 4, Barra Roantree, Karina Doorley



Chapters in Books and Reports

Drivers of income inequality: What can we learn using microsimulation, Klaus F. Zimmermann (ed.), *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*, 2023, Springer, Cham, Karina Doorley, Denisa Sologon, Cathal O'Donoghue



QEC Special Articles and Research Notes

Distributional impact of tax and welfare policies: Budget 2024, Karina Doorley, Luke Duggan, Agathe Simon, Dora Tuda



ESRI Working Papers

The trouble with take-up, Karina Doorley, Theano Kakoulidou



Other Papers

Cliff edges in the Irish tax-benefit system, ESRI Budget Perspectives Paper No. 2024/1, Claire Keane, Michael Doolan

Housing tenure, health and public healthcare coverage in Ireland, ESRI Budget Perspectives Paper No. 2024/2, Harry Humes, Michelle Barrett, Brendan Walsh

Extending the National Childcare Scheme to childminders: Cost and distributional effect, ESRI Budget Perspectives Paper No. 2024/3, Karina Doorley, Dora Tuda, Luke Duggan



ESRI Submissions

Submission to the Department of Social Protection's public consultation about introducing a Pay-Related Jobseeker's Benefit, Theano Kakoulidou, Barra Roantree, Michael Doolan



From back row (L-R) Harry Humes (ESRI), Dr Brendan Walsh (ESRI), Dr Karina Doorley (ESRI), Dr Werner Eichhorst (IZA Institute of Labor Economics), Dr Dora Tuda (ESRI), Prof Alan Barrett (ESRI), Luke Duggan (ESRI) and John McCarthy (Chief Economist, Department of Finance) at Budget Perspectives 2024. Budget Perspectives is an annual conference to discuss policy issues related to the national Budget.



Roderic O’Gorman TD (Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland) giving the Ministerial Address at the launch of ‘Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland: Third annual report’, funded by Community Foundation Ireland.



External Commitments of Research Staff

ALAN BARRETT

- Research Fellow, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Bonn
- Honorary Fellow, Society of Actuaries in Ireland
- Member, Royal Irish Academy
- Member, Northern Ireland Fiscal Council
- Member, UK Productivity Commission
- Member, External Advisory Board, Parliamentary Budget Office

ADELE BERGIN

- Council Member, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council
- Policy Section Editor, *Economic and Social Review*
- Council Member, Economic and Social Studies Council
- Research Fellow, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Bonn
- Member, Advisory Board, Department of Economics, Maynooth University
- Member, Central Statistics Office Expert Group on Population and Labour Force Projections
- Member, Central Statistics Office Census Advisory Group
- Member, Steering Group, ESRI/Department of Finance Research Programme

AOIFE BRICK

- Member, Public Sector Modelling Group

SHEELAH CONNOLLY

- Member, Health Research Consent Declaration Committee
- Member, Modelling Infectious Disease Ireland group

JOHN CURTIS

- Climate Action Fund – Advisory Board
- Member, Gas Innovation Advisory Group, Gas Networks Ireland

CIÁRA DALTON

- Chair/Board Member, Hygiene Hub
- Member, Legal Services Regulatory Authority's Roll of Practising Barristers

MERIKE DARMODY

- Member, Advisory Committee, Children's Research Network
- Co-chair, CRN-SIG 'Child and Youth Migration'
- Editorial Board member, *Estonian Journal of Education*
- Associate Editor, *Economic and Social Review*
- Co-supervisor, PhD, TCD
- Member, SIRIUS network
- Member, ESAI

ÇAĞAÇAN DEĞER

- Associate Editor, *World Journal of Applied Economics*

ANNE DEVLIN

- Visiting Researcher, Queen's University Belfast
- Steering Group Member, Centre for Economics, Policy and History, Trinity College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast
- Lecturer, Queen's University Belfast
- Member, Steering Group, All-Island Social Security Network

KELLY DE BRUIN

- Associate Editor, Climatic Change

KARINA DOORLEY

- Research Fellow, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Bonn
- Board Member, International Microsimulation Association
- Member, EUROMOD Irish country team
- Member, external advisory group to IGEEES
- Member, Young Academy Ireland, Royal Irish Academy

NIALL FARRELL

- External lecturer, Queen's University Belfast
- Member, Young Academy Ireland, Royal Irish Academy

THEANO KAKOULIDOU

- Committee member, Irish Society of Women in Economics (ISWE)

CLAIRE KEANE

- Member, Projects Committee, Foundation for Fiscal Studies
- Member, Technical Advisory Group, Social Inclusion Division, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
- Member, EUROMOD Irish country team

ELISH KELLY

- Research Fellow, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Bonn
- Growing Up in Ireland: Research and Practice Expert Advisory Group

JAMES LAURENCE

- Associate Editor, *Frontiers in Sociology* | Race and Ethnicity
- Honorary Research Fellow, University of Manchester

MARTINA LAWLESS

- Council Member, Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland
- Member, Central Statistics Office Enterprise Statistics Liaison Group
- Council Member, Council of the Irish Economics Association
- Associate Editor, *Open Economics Review*
- PhD Advisory Panel, University College Dublin
- Member, National Statistics Board

PETE LUNN

- European Commission Scientific Advisory Body on a Fair and Sustainable Economy
- Advisory Group on Social and Behavioural Research for Climate Action
- Climate Change and Biodiversity Advisory Group, Community Foundation of Ireland
- Behavioural Advisory Group, Better Letter Initiative, Department of Health
- Editorial Board, *Behavioural Public Policy*
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Behavioural and Experimental Finance*
- External Examiner, MSc Behavioural Science, University of Stirling

MUIREANN LYNCH

- PhD supervisor, NUIG, funded by MaREI
- Member, Climate Appraisal Steering Group, Department of Enterprise
- Deputy Director, NexSys, SFI-funded Partnership Programme

BERTRAND MAÎTRE

- Member, Technical Advisory Group of Social Inclusion Division, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
- Member, Microdata Access Network Group, Eurostat
- Member, Food Poverty Network, *safefood*

SELINA MCCOY

- Member, European Commission Expert Group on Quality Investment in Education and Training
- Irish National Expert, Independent Experts on Education and Training, European Commission
- Member, Cultures, Academic Values and Education (CAVE) Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin
- Member, Editorial Board, *Studies in Educational Evaluation*
- Member, Editorial Board, *Irish Educational Studies*
- Member, Editorial Board, *Ireland's Education Yearbook 2023*
- Guest Editor, *Special Issue of Educational Science*

FRANCES MCGINNITY

- Visiting Senior Fellow, Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE), London School of Economics
- Steering Group Member, ESRI/Shared Island Unit, Department of the Taoiseach, Research Programme on the Economic and Social Opportunities for Increased Cooperation on the Shared Island
- Member, Expert Panel, National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland
- Member, IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network) Standing Committee on Race, racism and discrimination (RACED)

SEAMUS MCGUINNESS

- Research Fellow, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Bonn

KIERAN MCQUINN

- Evaluator, University College Cork (UCC) PhD scholarship proposals
- Regular guest lecturer for the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI) BSc in Property Studies
- Member, External Advisory Board, University College Dublin School of Economics
- Member, Scientific Committee, EUROFRAME Conference

GRETTA MOHAN

- Understanding Society Fellowship, University of Essex
- Guest Editor, *Sustainability*
- Research and support, *Making Connections*

ANNE NOLAN

- Member, Research Data Governance Board for COVID-19 Data Hub
- Secretary, Health Economics Association of Ireland
- Steering Committee Member, The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA)
- Past-President, Irish Economics Association
- External PhD examiner, Université Catholique de Louvain
- Member, Executive Committee of the European Health Economics Association (EUHEA)

CONOR O'TOOLE

- Member, Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Steering Group Member, ESRI/Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Research Programme
- Steering Group Member, ESRI/Department of Finance Research Programme
- Member, Rental Regulation and Quality Working Group, Housing Commission
- Member, Steering Group, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Research Programme

PAUL REDMOND

- Steering Committee Member, Basic Income for the Arts Pilot Scheme
- Steering Committee Member, TRAILS – Horizon Europe-funded project on Skills Mismatch in Europe
- Economic Advisor, European and Employment Policy Observatory (EEPO), European Commission
- Lecturer, Queen's University Belfast
- Lecturer, Trinity College Dublin
- Steering Committee Member, Cowork4Youth – Policies for Youth in EEA Peripheral Regions

EMMA QUINN

- Member, Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF), Ireland Programme Monitoring Committee

BARRA ROANTREE

- International Research Associate, Institute for Fiscal Studies
- Member, EUROMOD Irish country team
- Committee member, Dublin Economics Workshop
- Committee member, Irish Society for Women in Economics (ISWE)

DEIRDRE ROBERTSON

- Committee Member, Patient Correspondence Behavioural Advisory Group, Department of Health
- Committee Member, Advisory Forum, COVID Health Related Behaviour Review, Queen's University Belfast
- Executive Committee Member, Young Academy of Ireland, Royal Irish Academy
- Organising Committee Member, Irish Behavioural Science and Policy Network

HELEN RUSSELL

- Member, Equality Budgeting Expert Advisory Group, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
- Member, National Steering Group, European Social Survey
- Member, Technical Advisory Group on Social Inclusion, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

RACHEL SLAYMAKER

- Member, Housing Commission Working Group on Delivery: Finance, Costs, Affordability and Viability
- Steering Group Member, ESRI/Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Research Programme

EMER SMYTH

- Committee Member, European Transitions in Youth Network
- Board Member, Jigsaw
- Member, Advisory Group, Coalition for Tech Apprenticeship Access and Inclusion
- Management Board, Centre for Longitudinal Studies

IULIA SIEDSCHLAG

- Vice-Chair, Standing Committee for International Affairs, Royal Irish Academy
- Member Editorial Board, *Irish Studies in International Affairs*
- Academic Expert, EU-US Trade and Technology Council Stakeholder Assembly
- Expert for Ireland, OECD Project on Artificial Intelligence Diffusion
- Expert, UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab
- Expert on Economic Policy in Ireland, Economic Experts Survey, ifo Centre for Public Finance and Political Economy Munich and Institute for Swiss Economic Policy
- Member, ESRI Representative, Productivity Liaison Group, Central Statistics Office Ireland
- Member, Irish Economic Association – Central Statistics Office Data Access Working Group
- Scientific Reviewer, Irish Economic Association Conference
- Member, PhD Faculty Council, University Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy
- Member, International Advisory Board, *Eastern Journal of European Studies*

AMY STAPLETON

- Researcher in the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR)
- Trainer in the Trainers Pool (TP) of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe
- Associate Editor, Students Forum, *AI & SOCIETY Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Communication*
- Member, International Advisory Board, *Educational Action Research Journal*
- Member, Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (VYRE)
- Member, Children's Research Network (CRN) and CRN-SIG 'Child and Youth Migration'
- Member, Trinity Centre of Forced Migration Studies
- Member, Trinity Research in Social Sciences (TRISS).

SHANE TIMMONS

- Advisor, GLOBE Ireland Air Quality Campaign, An Taisce
- Advisory Board Member, Strategic Clean Air Communications Group; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
- Advisory Board Member, Inclusive Employer Framework, Association for Higher Education Access & Disability (AHEAD)
- Advisory Board Member, Maynooth University's MSc Environmental Psychology

DORA TUDA

- Member, EUROMOD Irish country team

MIGUEL ANGEL TOVAR REÑOS

- Research affiliate, Institute for Environmental, Resource, and Spatial Economics, Department of Economics, University of Kiel
- Chair, Research Network on Fuel Poverty in Ireland

BRENDAN WALSH

- Member, Department of Health/Central Statistics Office Health Data Liaison Group
- Member, Long-Term Care Covid-19 Network (LTCcovid.org)
- Faculty member, Certificate in Principles of Integrated Care, delivered by the Integrated Care Academy, HSE, and Munster Technological University
- Member, Project Funding Peer Review committee, Cancer Research UK
- Member, Steering Group, ESRI/Health Service Executive Research Programme

ADELE WHELAN

- Member, Our Rural Future HEI and Research Network, Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
- Marie Jahoda Associate Fellow, Digital Futures at Work Research Centre, University of Sussex
- Economic Advisor, European and Employment Policy Observatory (EEPO), European Commission
- Lecturer, Applied Policy Evaluation module, MSc in Economic Policy, Trinity College Dublin
- Thesis Supervisor, MSc in Economic Policy, Trinity College Dublin

AYKUT MERT YAKUT

- Associate Editor, *World Journal of Applied Economics*



External Reviewers of ESRI Publications in 2022 and 2023

The following ESRI publication series are subject to review by external experts to ensure academic quality: ESRI Research Series Macroeconomic Forecasting Series, QEC Special Articles and Research Notes, Budget Perspectives Series, Joint Publications, ESRI Working Papers, Reports to Commissioning Bodies that are published by commissioning body.

2022 and 2023 external reviewers are listed below.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

- Professor Alan Aherne, Professor of Economics, University of Galway
- Dr Michael Byrne, Lecturer in Political Economy, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin
- Dr Stephen Byrne, Senior Economist, Irish Economic Analysis Division, Central Bank of Ireland
- Dr Dermot Coates, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Chief Economist, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
- Mr Seamus Coffey, Lecturer, Department of Economics, University College Cork
- Dr Micheál L. Collins, Assistant Professor, Social Policy at the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin
- Professor Jim Deegan, Professor of Tourism Policy, University of Limerick
- Dr Fiona Dukelow, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy, School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork
- Professor Alastair Gray, Emeritus Professor of Health Economics, University of Oxford
- Professor Alberto Longo, School of Biological Sciences, Queen's University Belfast
- Paul Mac Flynn, Co-Director, Nevin Economic Research Institute
- Dr John McDonagh, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, University of Galway
- Niall McInerney, Head of Function, Macroprudential Policy for Non-Banks, International Finance Division, Central Bank of Ireland
- Dr Irene Mosca, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Maynooth University
- Dr Jean O'Dwyer, Deputy Head of Environmental Science, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Science, University College Cork
- Professor Stephen Roper, Professor of Enterprise, Warwick Business School
- Dr Mary Ryan, Researcher, Environmental Economics / Rural Development Programme Co-ordinator, Teagasc
- Dr Robert Sweeney, Senior Economic and Policy Analyst, TASC – Think-tank for Action on Social Change
- Dr Olive Sweetman, Lecturer in Economics, Maynooth University.

SOCIAL RESEARCH

- Dr Martina Bisello, Research Manager, European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)
- Dr Patricia Brazil, School of Law, Trinity College Dublin
- Dr Daniel Capistrano, Research Fellow, School of Education, University College Dublin
- Professor Yekaterina Chzhen, Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
- Mr Seamus Coffey, Lecturer, Department of Economics, University College Cork
- Dr Micheál Collins, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin
- Dr Mat Creighton, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University College Dublin
- Professor Jonathan Drennan, Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, University College Dublin
- Professor Frances Fahy, Professor of Geography, University of Galway
- Professor John Fitzgerald, Emeritus, Trinity College Dublin
- Dr Ludovica Gambaro, Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute of Sociology, University of Tubingen, Germany
- Professor Mary Gilmartin, Department of Geography, Maynooth University
- Professor Pablo Gracia, Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
- Dr Sarah Groarke, Ombudsman for Children
- Dr Michele Gubello, Department of Economics, University College Dublin
- Dr Egle Guisete, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University College Dublin
- Dr Carmel Hannan, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Limerick
- Dr Margaret Hodgins, Health Promotion Research Centre, University of Galway
- Dr Helen Johnston, Senior Social Policy Analyst, National Economic and Social Council (NESI)
- Professor Richard Layte, Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
- Dr Sean Lyons, Visiting Research Fellow, Trinity College Dublin
- Dr Tom McDonnell, Co-director, Nevin Economic Research Institute
- Dr Yvonne McCarthy, Head of the Climate Change Unit, Central Bank of Ireland
- Dr Lucy Michael, Director, Lucy Michael Research, Training and Consultancy.
- Dr Killian Mullan, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Aston University, Birmingham
- Dr Clodhna Murphy, Department of Law, Maynooth University
- Professor Mary Murphy, Department of Social Policy, Maynooth University
- Professor Brian Nolan, Professor of Social Policy, University of Oxford
- Dr Philip O'Connell, Geary Institute, University College Dublin
- Dr Cormac O'Dea, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Yale University
- Dr Don O'Neill, Head of Department of Humanities, South East Technological University
- Professor Gerry Redmond, Matthew Flinders Professor, College of Business, Government and Law, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia
- Dr Mark Regan, Senior Economist, Parliamentary Budget Office
- Professor Jet Saunders, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science, London School of Economics
- Dr Samantha Smith, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Health Policy and Management, Trinity College Dublin
- Professor Kitty Stewart, Associate Professor, Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics, UK
- Dr Sharon Walsh, Lecturer Above the Bar (Economics), University of Galway
- Professor Valerie Walshe, Chief Economist, HSE
- Dr Mark Ward, Senior Research Fellow, TILDA, Trinity College Dublin
- Dr Lisa Wilson, Senior Economist, Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI)



Staff List as of 31 December 2023

Director

Alan Barrett

Economic Analysis

Marta Alvaro-Taus
Adele Bergin
Luke Brosnan
Klavs Ciprikis
John Curtis (Head of Division)
Kelly de Bruin
Çağaçan Değer
Seraphim Dempsey
Kate Devane
Anne Devlin
Juan David Duran Vanegas
Paul Egan
Andrés Estevez
Kirsten Everett
Niall Farrell
Tensay Hadush Meles
Lea Hauser
Pranav Kakkar
Elish Kelly
Lorcan Kelly
Janez Kren
Akhilesh Kumar Verma
Clement Kweku Kyei
Martina Lawless
Muireann Lynch
Samuel McArdle
Seamus McGuinness
Kieran McQuinn
Gretta Mohan
Conor O'Toole
Paul Redmond
Iulia Siedschlag
Rachel Slaymaker
Elisa Staffa
Miguel Angel Tovar Reaños
Anita Vollmer
Adele Whelan
Aykut Mert Yakut

Social Research

Anousheh Alamir
Ylva Andersson
Aoife Brick
Sheelah Connolly
Ciára Dalton
Merike Darmody
Karina Doorley
Luke Duggan
Michele Gubello
Garance Hingre
Aislinn Hoy
Harry Humes
Theano Kakoulidou
Claire Keane
Aislin Lavin
Pete Lunn
Bertrand Maître
Lucie Martin
Selina McCoy
Fran McGinnity
Ellen McHugh
Keire Murphy
Anne Nolan
Diarmaid Ó Ceallaigh
Olga Poluektova
Dervla Potter
Emma Quinn
Deirdre Robertson
Helen Russell (Head of Division)
Simona Sándorová
Anne Sheridan
Agathe Simon
Emer Smyth
Amy Stapleton
Shane Timmons
Dora Tuda
Michael Vallely
Brendan Walsh
Keyu Ye

Corporate Resources

Eleanor Bannerton (Operations and Strategy Manager)
Claire Buckley (Head of Human Resources)
Sarah Burns
Bernice Clancy
Liz Coyle
Stephen Cunningham
Liana D'Emidio
Jennifer Downey
Julianne Flynn
David Gorman
Adrienne Jinks
Claudine Keegan
Francis McEvoy
Josh Nevin
Clare O'Neill
Charles O'Regan (Head of Finance)
Fiona O'Sullivan
Fiona Owens
Fionnuala Quinn
Stephen Sammon
LeAnnie Wilson



Whitaker Patrons and Corporate Members

ESRI WHITAKER PATRONS

Davy
EirGrid
ESB
Google
ICON
Intel
Kingspan
Microsoft

ESRI CORPORATE MEMBERS

AbbVie
ABP Foods
Aer Lingus
AIB
Becton Dickinson (BD)
Bord Bia
Bord Gáis Energy
Bus Éireann
Cavan County Council
CCPC
Central Bank of Ireland
Coimisiún na Meán
Cork City Council
Cork County Council
daa
Datalex
DCC plc
Deloitte
Department of Agriculture
Department of Defence
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science
Department of Foreign Affairs
Department of Transport
Dublin Bus
Dublin City Council

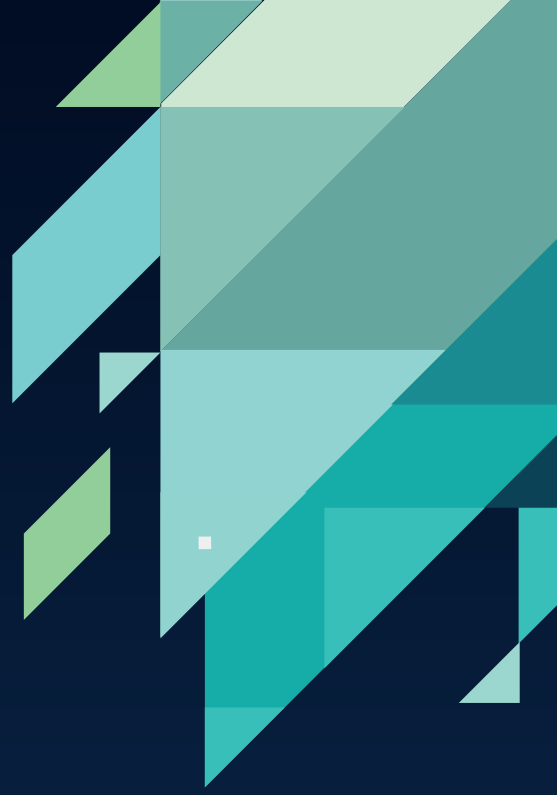
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
Enterprise Ireland
Fáilte Ireland
FBD
Fingal County Council
Garda Síochána, An
Greencoat Capital
Higher Education Authority (HEA)
Ibec
IDA
Institute of Bankers
Intertradelreland
Irish Farmers' Association
Irish Life
Irish Rail
Uisce Éireann
Johnson & Johnson
Kerry County Council
KPMG
Limerick County Council
Louth County Council
Malin plc
Mater Hospital
Matheson
Meath County Council
Musgrave Group
Norbrook
National Transport Authority
NTMA
OHM Group
Portwest
Post, An
PTS B
PwC
Rexel Group
Ryanair
SIPTU
Sisk
Tesco

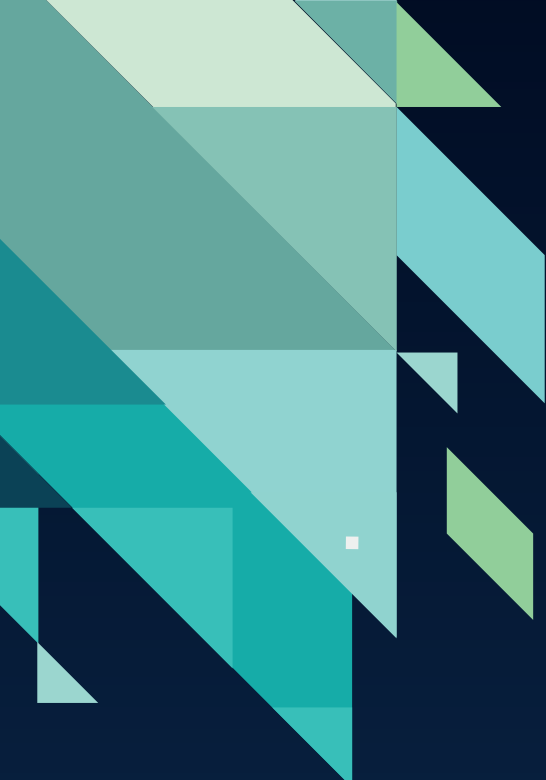


Minister for Finance of Ireland, Michael McGrath TD, speaks at a Breakfast Briefing for ESRI Whitaker Patrons and Corporate members



(L-R) Prof Alan Barrett (ESRI Director), Minister for Finance of Ireland, Michael McGrath TD and Sean O'Driscoll (ESRI Chair) at a Breakfast Briefing for ESRI Whitaker Patrons and Corporate members





**Whitaker Square,
Sir John Rogerson's Quay,
Dublin 2**
Telephone +353 1 863 2000
Email admin@esri.ie
Web www.esri.ie

ISBN: 978-0-7070-0551-5