

# Monitoring Ireland's Skills Supply

Briefing Note June 2015

## Introduction

This briefing note outlines some of the key points contained in the EGFSN/SOLAS publication, *Monitoring Ireland's Skills Supply 2015*, the aim of which is to provide a skills profile of Ireland's population in terms of field of education and level.

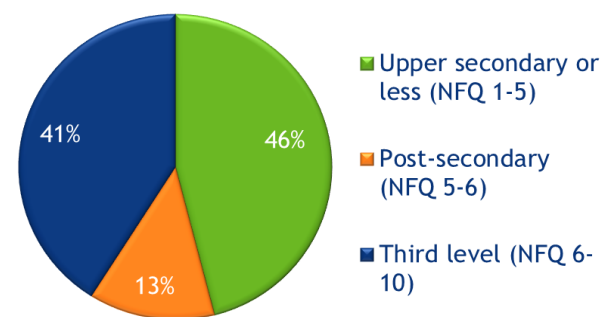
The data used in this briefing note (and in the report itself) is from a variety of sources including the CSO's National Quarterly Household Survey (QNHS) (population and employment/unemployment); Higher Education Authority (awards and First Destination Survey data); Quality and Qualifications Ireland (awards); and Eurostat.

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## To what level have people in Ireland studied?

- More than a half of persons aged 20-64 years have studied to at least post-secondary level
- 41% have third level qualifications; however, the share is smaller for older age cohorts (53% for 30-39 year olds compared to 28% for 50-64 year olds).



Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO QNHS data

## Impact of population change on education profile

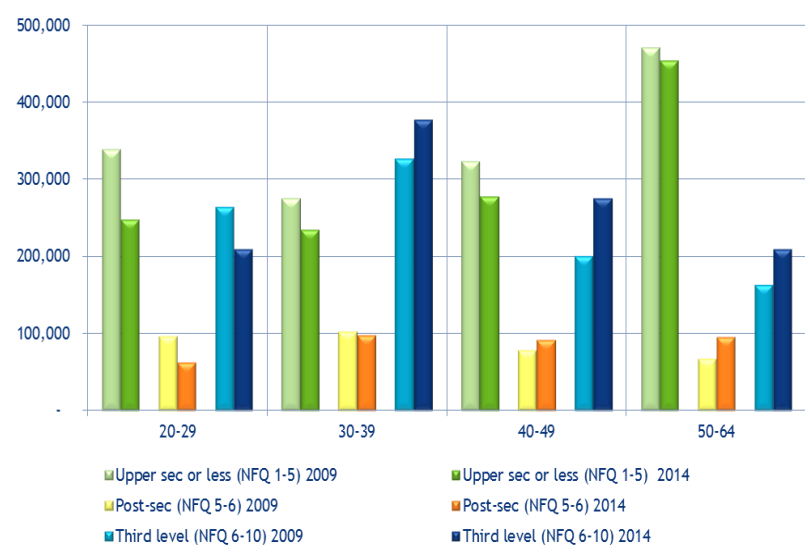
### There are fewer 20-29 year-olds

- The drop in 20-29 year olds in population led to a drop at upper secondary and third level, but the shares with third level qualifications higher in 2014 than in 2009

### People are more highly qualified

- The number and shares with third level qualifications increased across all other age cohorts while the numbers with upper secondary education declined.

Highest level of education attained by age, q4 2009 & q4 2014

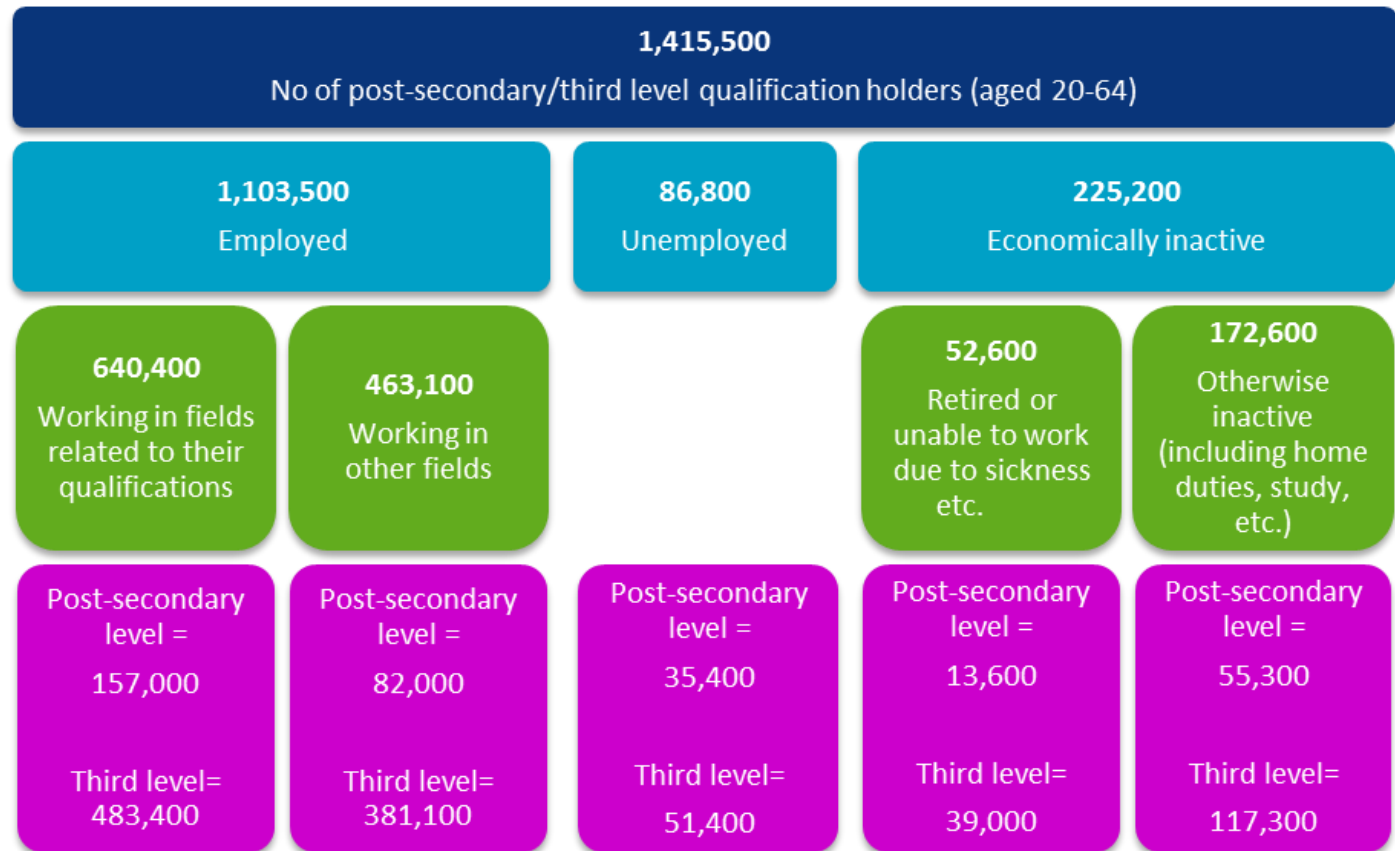


Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO QNHS data

## What is the economic status of qualification holders?

- 54% of all 20-64 year olds hold post-secondary/third level qualifications
- Most are employed with only 6% unemployed
- A large share are inactive primarily due to many classified as students and/or on home duties.
- Most people work in a field related to their qualification, particularly at post-secondary level

Distribution of post-secondary/third level qualification holders (aged 20-64) in population by employment status, q4 2014

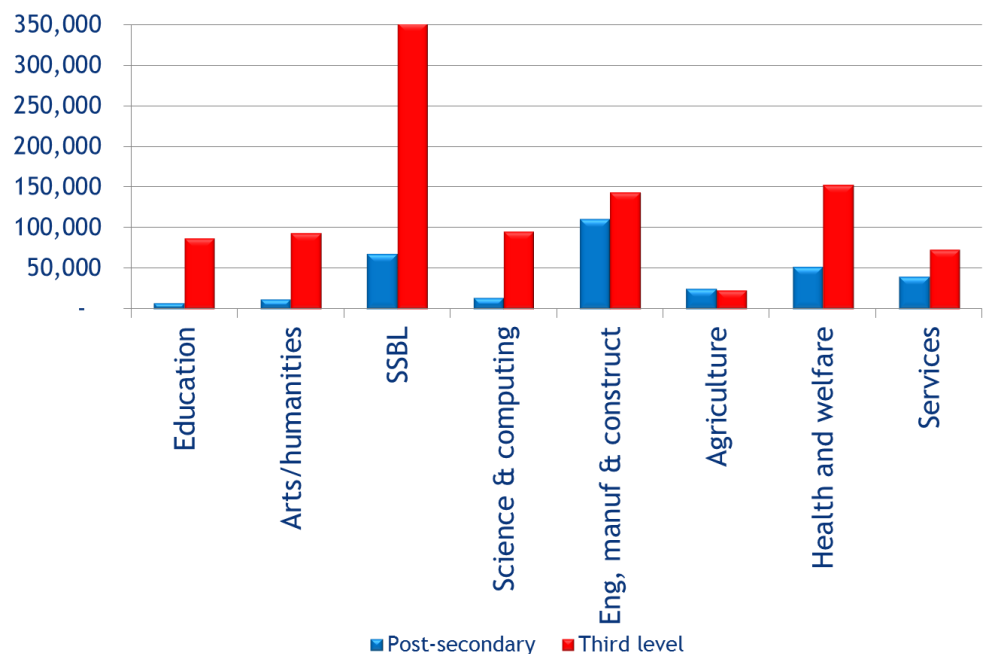


Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO QNHS data

## In what areas are people qualified?

- Most third level qualification holders were in social sciences, business & law (SSBL)
- Most post-secondary qualification holders were in engineering, manufacturing & construction, SSBL and health & welfare.

Field of highest level of education (post-secondary/third level) (20-64 years), q4 2014



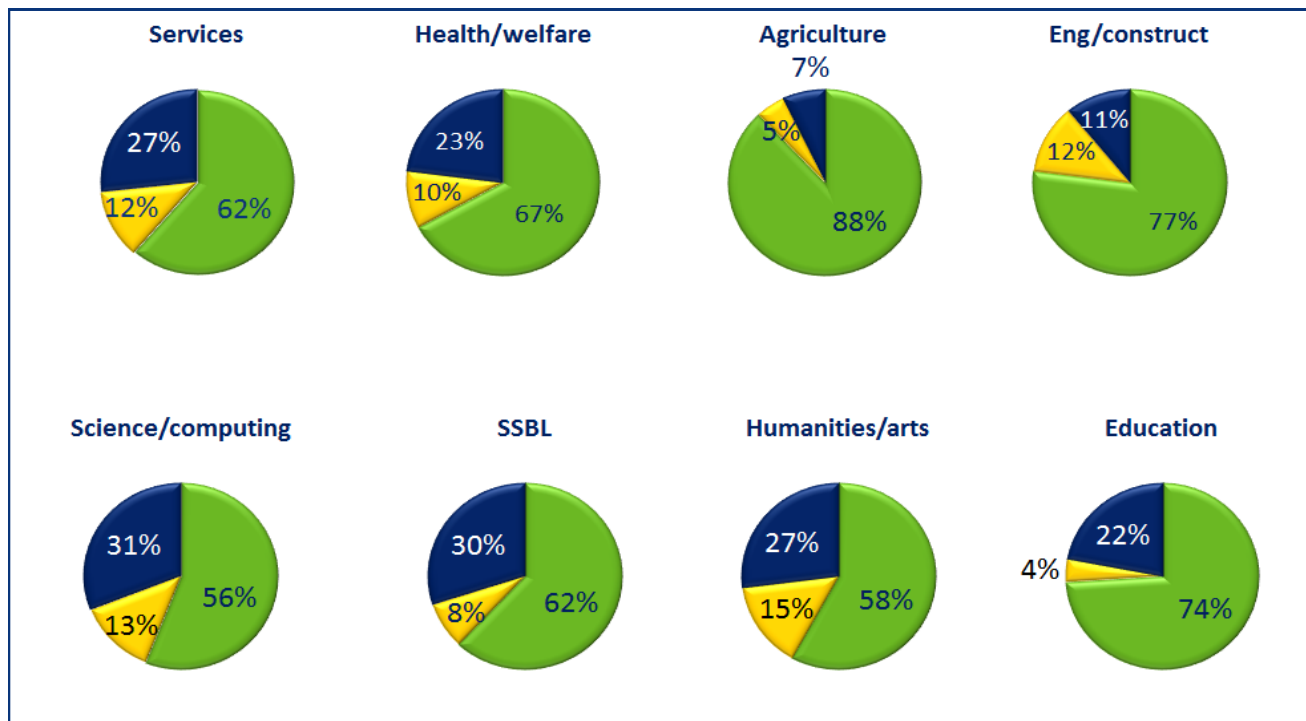
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO QNHS data

## Third level graduates have the highest share in employment

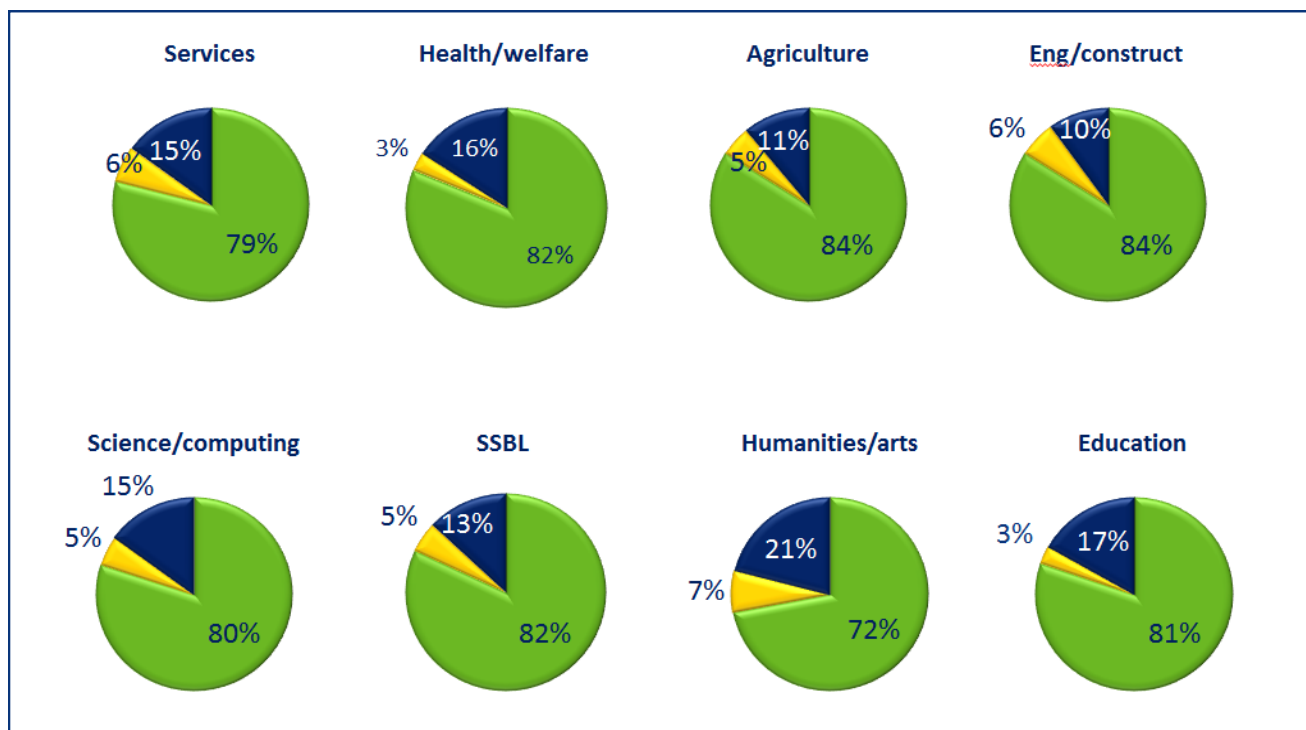
- On average, 70% of post-secondary qualification holders are in employment compared to 81% for third level
- At post-secondary level, those with qualifications in agriculture and engineering-related had the highest share in employment
- At third level, arts/humanities qualification holders were the least likely to be in employment and most likely to be categorised as not active (e.g. students, home duties).

Post-secondary/third level qualification holders (20-64 years) by field of highest level of education and employment status, q4 2014

Post-secondary qualification holders



Third level qualification holders



■ In employment 
 ■ Unemployed 
 ■ Not active

Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO QNHS data

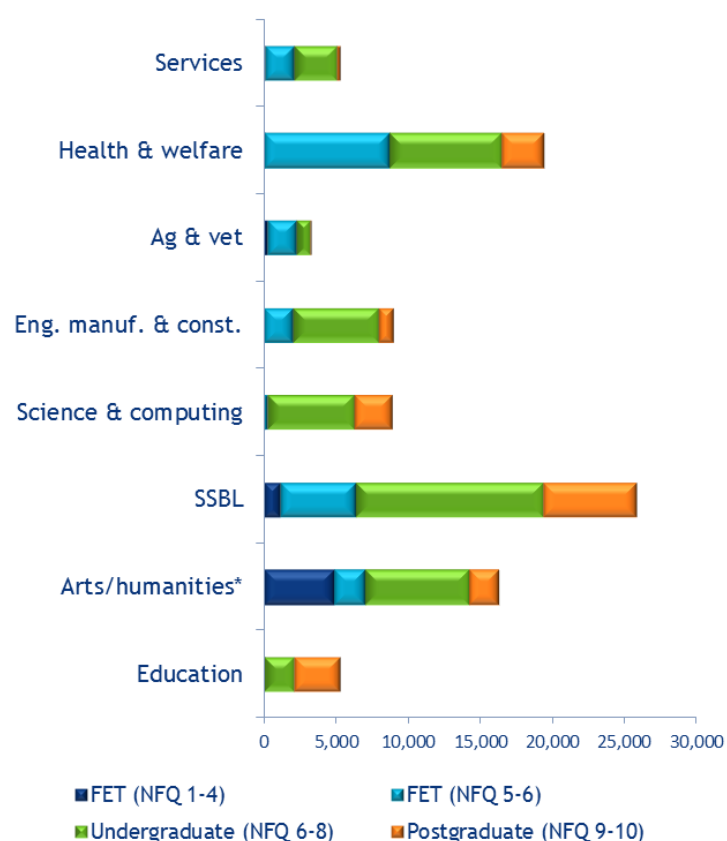
# How many graduates were there in 2013/2014?

Over 93,000 awards across levels 1-10 in 2013/2014, mostly in SSBL

Outputs from QQI (FET<sup>1</sup>) and HEA (3rd level)

- The largest numbers were in social sciences, business and law (SSBL), mostly at undergraduate level
- FET awards (NFQ 5-6) were mostly in health/welfare and SSBL whereas FET awards (NFQ 1-4) were mostly in arts/humanities\*
- Higher education awards at undergraduate level were mostly in SSBL, health/welfare, arts/humanities and science/computing
- At postgraduate level, the largest numbers were in SSBL, education and health
- Almost all awards in the education field were in higher education, more than half of which were at postgraduate level.

Awards by NFQ level and discipline, 2013/2014



\* Includes general learning

Source: HEA; QQI (FET major awards)

<sup>1</sup> This data is a subset of all FET awards (other awarding bodies are not included (e.g. City and Guilds))

## Other outputs facts and figures

	FET minor & special purpose awards (QQI)	Non-HEA higher education <sup>2</sup> awards (QQI)	Irish domiciled 3 <sup>rd</sup> level graduates in the UK (HESA) <sup>3</sup>	Distribution of 3rd level graduates by field 2012 (Eurostat)	
				Ireland	EU
Education	7,000	980	570	9%	10%
Arts/humanities*	59,000	270	595	15%	11%
SSBL	39,000	2,460	925**	30%	34%
Science & computing	10,000	610	705	12%	9%
Engineering & construction	12,000	-	410	12%	13.5%
Ag/vet	8,000	-	1,395	1.3%	2%
Health	27,000	740		16%	15.5%
Services	57,000	30	N/A	5%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>219,000</b>	<b>5,090</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Includes general learning awards;

\*\* Includes transport and tourism

<sup>2</sup> Includes private and independent colleges

<sup>3</sup> Higher Education Statistics Agency (UK)

## Where do graduates go?

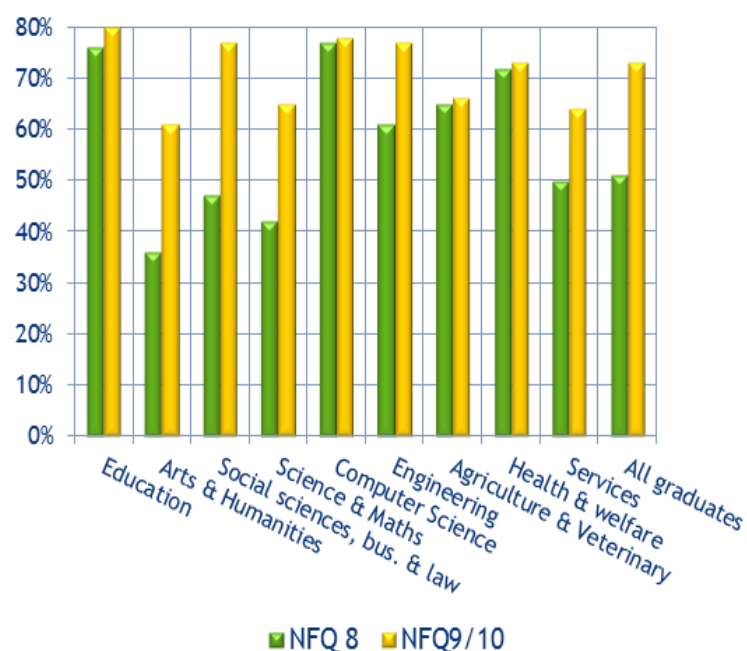
### Highest employment rates for NFQ 9/10 graduates

- The HEA's First Destination Survey shows that 73% of NFQ 9/10 graduates (masters and PhD graduates only) were in employment nine months after graduation, compared to approximately a half of all NFQ 8 graduates

### Employment outcomes depend on field of study

- The highest employment rates were for education and computer science graduates across all levels
- Arts/humanities and science and maths graduates at NFQ 8 had the lowest share in employment (as many were engaged in further studies/training).

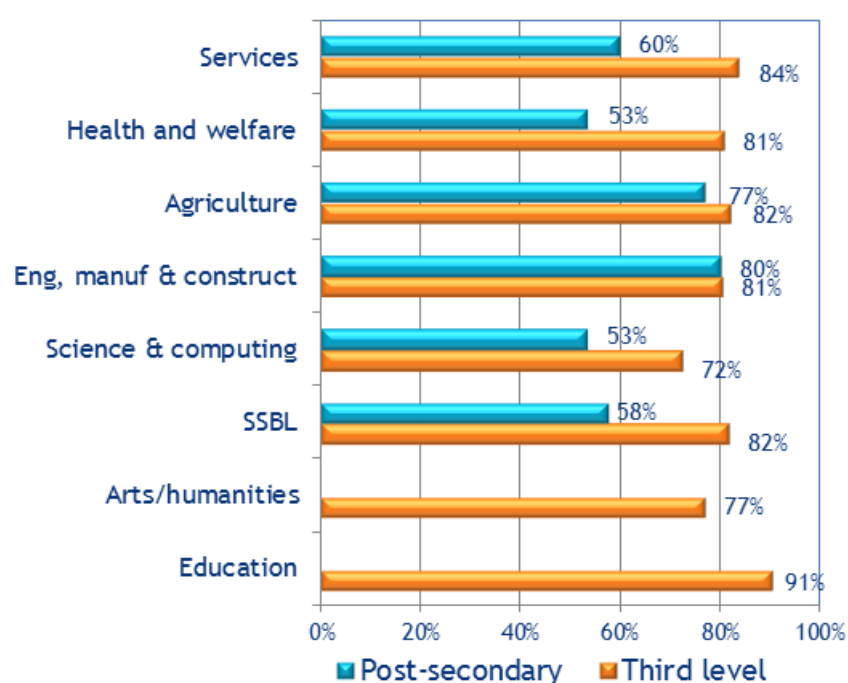
FDS Survey, % in employment (Ireland or overseas), 2013



Source: HEA

### Young graduates: 3rd level graduates have higher employment rates than post-secondary graduates

Young graduates (25-29 years) in employment by field of education, Q4 2014



\*Numbers too small for post-sec in arts/humanities & education  
Source: SLMRU analysis of CSO QNHS data

- The CSO's QNHS shows that of all 25-29 year old graduates, third level graduates had the highest shares in employment compared to post-secondary award holders
- However, for engineering and agriculture, the shares in employment were similar for both post-secondary and third level graduates
- A bigger gap existed for all other fields.



# Outlook by field of learning

## Science

- High employment
- Working in high skilled jobs
- Many find work outside their field of study

## Computing

- High employment, even amongst younger graduates
- Working in high skilled jobs
- Strong demand for skills; supply from education and training increased but still insufficient to meet demand

## Engineering & Construction

- Labour market opportunities are more positive for 3<sup>rd</sup> level qualification holders than for those with post-secondary qualifications, although many work in an unrelated field
- Construction sector recovery and continued growth in engineering should lead to positive outcomes for qualification holders

## Social Science, Business & Law

- Employed across a wide range of occupations & sectors
- Many business occupations are experiencing skills shortages
- Many third level graduates are employed in high skilled occupations in a field related to their qualification
- For those with post-secondary qualifications, employment opportunities are less favourable: employment is below average, especially for younger age cohorts

## Health & Welfare

- Very positive labour market outcomes for third level graduates (high employment, mainly in professional occupations)
- Less favourable for post-secondary graduates (lower than average in employment, and slight less likely to work in a related field)
- Demand for skills is expected to continue, or even increase, due to demographic factors and improved fiscal situation

## Education

- High employment rates; majority in education related areas
- Areas for note: high number of younger cohorts gaining employment overseas; relatively high number aged under 65 who have retired in recent years
- Employment opportunities depend on government policy/funding and the size of the school-going age cohort; these factors will impact on the demand for teachers

## Arts & humanities

- A comparatively high number of awards from the education/training system are in arts/humanities
- A high share tend to continue with further studies/training on graduation
- They tend not to be employed in related areas; this may mean greater flexibility in meeting labour market needs but also greater susceptibility to working in lower skilled employment

## Agriculture

- Relatively high employment rates for both post-secondary and third level graduates
- Comparatively few qualification holders in the population

## Services

- Services qualifications holders had a lower than average share in employment and a higher than average share classified as not economically active
- The sectors in which they are employed (e.g. accommodation & food services) are expected to recover, leading to greater opportunities, particularly in tourism and hospitality

### Further Information

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