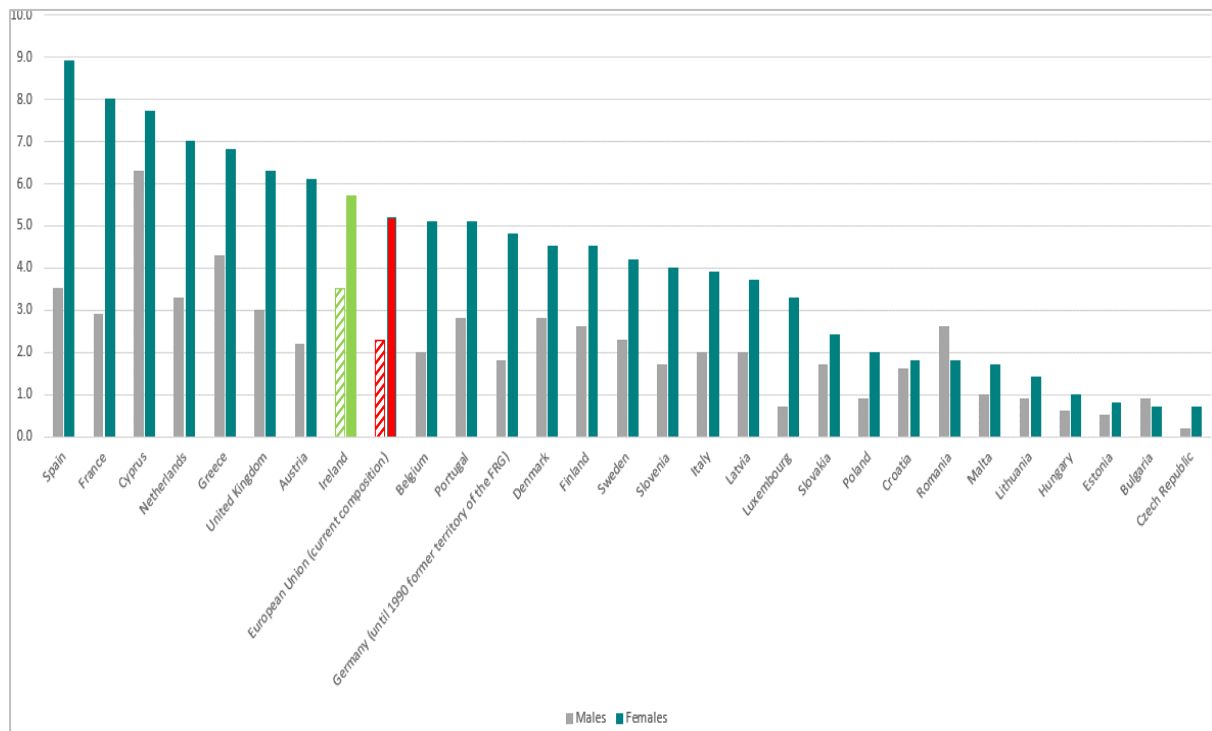


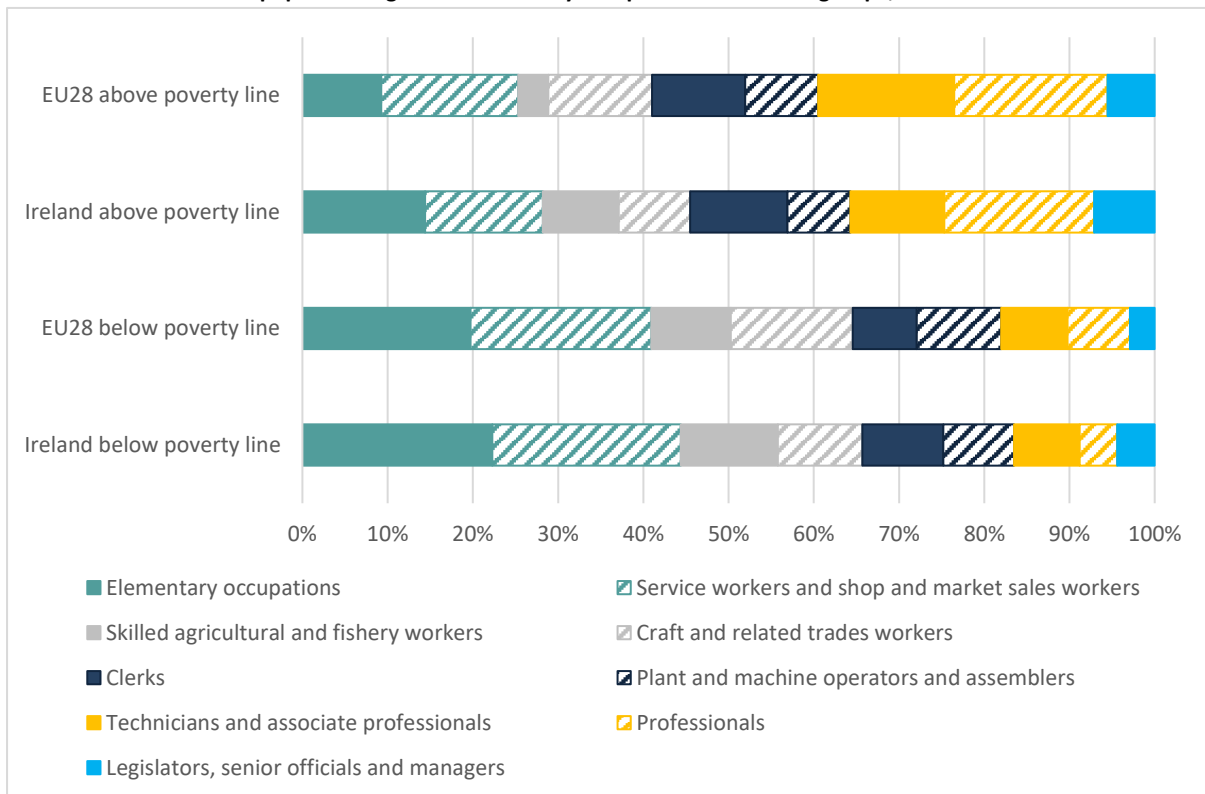
Work

Chart 5.1: Underemployed Part-time Workers aged 15-74 as % of Active Population, EU-28, 2017



Source: Eurostat, [lfsi_sup_a]

Chart 5.2: Distribution of population aged 18 and over by occupation and income group*, 2016



Source: Eurostat, [ilc_lvh03], excluding Armed Forces as not statistically relevant

Work

Underemployment



Employment in Ireland increased by 2.9% in the year to Q1 2018 to 2,220,500. Participation in part-time employment fell during this period, by 9,900 people, from 19.9% of the total labour force in Q1 2017 to 19.3% in Q1 2018, while participation in full-time employment increased by 72,100, from 72.9% of the labour force to 75% within the same period.

However, the number of underemployed people, those working part-time but available to work more hours, has increased from 96,100 to 113,700 in the same period. This equates to 4.8% of the total labour force in Q1 2018. Women account for a greater proportion of this increase than men, with female underemployment increasing by 15,300 compared to an increase in male underemployment of 2,400.

This disproportionate distribution of underemployment amongst women is also seen at European level. Chart 6.1 shows the underemployment rate of males and females aged 15 to 74 as a percentage of the active population in 2017 across the EU28. Ireland's female underemployment rate was 5.7%, compared to 3.5% male underemployment. Compared to other EU28 countries, Ireland ranks 8th in female underemployment and 3rd in male underemployment, and above the EU28 average of 5.2% and 2.3% respectively.

Younger workers are far more likely to be underemployed, with 8.4% of all active 15-24 year olds reported as underemployed in Ireland in 2017 (9.9% female, 7.1% male), compared to an EU28 average of 6.4% (7.8% female, 5.2% male).

As seen earlier, Ireland has the highest proportion of the population aged 0-14 in the EU28. We rank 8th of the EU28 countries in terms of underemployment among active 15-

24 year olds. Improving education is only part of the solution; we must also ensure decent work for a reasonable wage.

In-Work Poverty



There were over 105,000 people at work and at risk of poverty in 2016. This represents 13.3% of all those at risk of poverty and 5.3% of all people in employment. A further 236,510 people at work experienced enforced deprivation, 23.5% of the total. Chart 5.2 shows the distribution of occupations in two income groups; those whose income is above the poverty line and those whose income is below it. The highest proportion of those whose income is below the poverty line work in Elementary Occupations, at 22.3% (23,453 people), Service workers and shop and market sales workers, at 22.1% (23,243 people) and Skilled agricultural and fishery workers, at 11.4% (11,990 people). Ireland has a higher proportion of lower-skilled workers living in poverty than the EU28 average.

According to the CSO Earnings and Labour Costs Annual Data 2017, workers in the Accommodation and Food Services sector had the lowest average hourly earnings (€12.70), followed by those in the Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Other Service activities (€16.71) and Administrative and Support Services (€17.56)¹. These are occupations that traditionally have a young, predominantly female, workforce.

Policy Priorities

- Eliminate precarious employment.
- Introduce a Universal Basic Income to ensure that everyone can afford a reasonable standard of living.
- Make tax credits refundable to help alleviate in-work poverty.

¹ Inclusive of overtime and irregular earnings