

What kind of jobs are there in Ireland?

Demanding, highly controlled, precarious jobs:

Workers in this group deal with job insecurity (26%) and relatively low pay with 55% earning between €20,000 and €40,000. Similar to 'low paid, precarious jobs,' they have high effort levels, limited autonomy, long hours, and struggle with work-life balance. Many are anxious about their future work and employment.

They are generally equally distributed across the labour market.

Precarious, low-paid jobs:

These job types are characterized by **precarious work** and **low wages**. These workers also receive relatively **poor levels of** additional renumeration benefits such as sick pay or private health insurance. Most workers (87%) earn less than €20,000 net. These jobs provide **few job resources**, **little job discretion**, **little training**, **limited management supports**, and **little trade union representation**. On the 'plus' side, they experience little work-private life spillage and effort levels are generally low or modest.

More apparent among: females; young workers; those without a third-level qualification; workers in elementary, caring, leisure and sales and customer service roles; and those employed in small firms.

Secure, moderately good, unionised jobs:

This job type offers relatively **secure employment**, with only 14% of workers experiencing wage or employment insecurity. Most jobs here are **full-time** and **permanent jobs**. Pay levels are low to average & workers have access to several additional renumeration benefits. These are, for the main part, **unionised jobs**. Workers in these jobs are **most likely to receive substantial levels of training**. While these jobs' working hours tend to be long, they offer **high levels of work-life flexibility**, **good job autonomy**, and **work demands tend not to generate work-life conflict.**

More apparent among: public sector jobs, in large firms; more likely to be occupied by older workers.

Secure, moderately good jobs with strong employee-management relations:

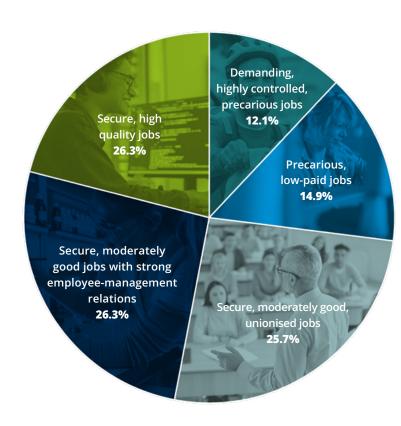
Earnings range from low to average, with 79% earning between €20,000 and €40,000 net. There is **relatively good access** to additional renumeration benefits, although not as extensive as in the unionized jobs cluster. However, workers in this cluster **enjoy good social support** from their managers. More than half (63%) work between 31 and 40 hours per week and **enjoy moderate levels of job autonomy**.

More apparent among: workers aged between 25 to 44 years and firms in the private sector.

Secure, high quality jobs:

These are secure, relatively well-paid jobs (majority earn annual net salaries ranging from €40,000 to €60,000) with good benefits. Incumbents enjoy high levels of job discretion, good work-private life flexibility and relatively good training provision. Working hours tend to be long (64% work in excess of 41 hours per week). Most (82%) enjoy good social supports from their organisation or line manager and few (5%) express anxieties about their future. Less than half (44%) have employee representation via a union or collective agreement. One in 10 of these workers experience high levels of work effort intensity.

More apparent among: males, those possessing a degree or higher-level qualifications, managerial workers and those working in the professional, technical, scientific, administration sectors as well as in the FDI sector.



Source: Geary, J. and Wilson, L. (2023)

Job Quality in Ireland: First findings from the UCD

Working in Ireland Survey, 2021