



AUSTRALIA NEEDS SKILLS FACT SHEET

DUBLIN, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

The capital city of Ireland, Dublin, was chosen as a location for an *Australia Needs Skills* expo as the region has a rich source of skills in the industrial manufacturing, hi-technology, financial and commercial sectors. Of the 800 000 employed in Dublin and its surrounding region, 80 per cent are in the services sector category and 20 per cent are in the industrial sector.

Dublin's chief industries are brewing, textile manufacturing, distilling, shipbuilding, food processing, and the manufacture of foundry products, glass and cigarettes.

Agriculture engages about 70 per cent of the land in Ireland and 13 per cent of the workforce. The raising of dairy and beef cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry is the chief agricultural enterprise. Among the leading crops are flax, oats, wheat, turnips, potatoes, sugar beets and barley. The republic's industries now account for almost 40 per cent of its GDP and 80 per cent of its exports and employ more than a quarter of its workforce.

SKILLS ANALYSIS

According to the most recent Census report, Ireland's top four major employment sectors, and employment percentages of the total labour force for those sectors, are:

Percentage of total labour force

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • production industries – other | 14.61 per cent |
| • wholesale and retail trade | 13.25 per cent |
| • financial and other business services | 12.77 per cent |
| • construction | 10.23 per cent |

In 2005/06, the top 10 occupations in demand in Australia, filled by migrants from Ireland, were:

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|---------------------------|--|
| 1. registered nurses | 8. hairdressers |
| 2. general electricians | 9. general plumbers |
| 3. accountants | 10. bricklayers |
| 4. carpenters and joiners | 10. carpenters |
| 5. cooks | 10. refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanics |
| 6. motor mechanics | |
| 7. fitters | |



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OTHER FACTS ABOUT IRELAND

Capital: Dublin, 1 186 159

Largest cities: Cork, 274 000; Galway, 72 111; Limerick, 52 560

Monetary units: Euro (formerly Irish pound)

Principal languages: English, Irish (Gaelic)

Literacy rate: 99 per cent (2003 est.)

Economic summary: GDP/PPP (2005 est.): \$164.6 billion; per capita \$41 000. **Real growth rate:** 4.7 per cent. **Inflation:** 2.4 per cent. **Unemployment:** 4.3 per cent. **Arable land:** 16.82 per cent.

- **Agriculture:** turnips, barley, potatoes, sugar beets, wheat; beef, dairy products.
- **Labour force:** 2.03 million (2005 est.); agriculture 8 per cent, industry 29 per cent and services 64 per cent (2002 est.).

Industries: steel, lead, zinc, silver, aluminium, barite and gypsum mining processing, food products, brewing, textiles, clothing; chemicals, pharmaceuticals, machinery, rail transportation equipment, passenger and commercial vehicles, ship construction and refurbishment, glass and crystal, software and tourism.

Natural resources: zinc, lead, natural gas, barite, copper, gypsum, limestone, dolomite, peat and silver.

Exports: \$102 billion f.o.b. (2005 est.): machinery and equipment, computers, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, live animals and animal products.

Major trading partners: United States, United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, France, Netherlands, Italy (2004).