

PRESS RELEASE

## Expert Group Highlights Jobs Market Opportunities

The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs today (Friday, 9 May 2014) published its fourth *Vacancy Overview* report, which outlines the areas where job vacancies arose during 2013. The continued demand for IT professionals was evident throughout the report. The Recruitment Agency Survey also found an increased number of difficult to fill mentions for IT posts along with professional occupations in areas such as engineering, science, health and business; job announcements in the media were mostly for IT professionals and sales related occupations, followed by operative and associate professional positions. Vacancies in construction are also beginning to appear following several years of low demand.

Speaking at the launch of the report Ciaran Cannon T.D., Minister for Training and Skills commented, "This report provides insights for job seekers, graduates, career guidance professionals and those who are looking at education and training choices for career progression. Furthermore it is a valuable input to inform the training and education provision especially in the context of matching provision to employer needs."

Una Halligan, Chairperson, Expert Group on Future Skills Needs said "Foreign languages, especially German, continued to be in demand for a number of roles (primarily sales and customer service positions) and a third level qualification was a prerequisite for many advertised jobs, particularly for professional positions."

While the above vacancies represent some expansion in employment, many vacancies are occurring primarily due to a high level of turnover. This is particularly the case for occupations in caring and sales where there is a high frequency of vacancies but no signs of employment growth.

Based on an analysis from two sources, DSP Jobs Ireland (representing all vacancies advertised through the public employment service) and IrishJobs.ie (a private recruitment agency), the index of job vacancy notifications shows that the volume of notifications of job vacancies to Irishjobs.ie has been increasing while vacancies advertised through DSP Jobs Ireland have remained constant.

An analysis of the methods used by unemployed persons in searching for a job reveals that the share of persons contacting either a private or public employment agency has been in decline since 2008, with unemployed persons using methods not captured in the data, such as social media, when searching for a job. The methods used also vary depending on the person's age, education level, previous occupation and the length of time they have been unemployed.

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